

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 30, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Vietnamese pastor in Biloxi relies on faith, hope, and love



At the dedication of baby Hong Phuong, Pastor Tho Ngoc Dang is a trusted friend, a part of the family. Times like these are important for new immigrants, not only to celebrate past traditions but to offer new beginnings.

At the Vietnamese Baptist Church in east Biloxi, Pastor Tho Ngoc Dang has baptized 100 converts. He expects to baptize another 39 who have made professions of faith. For him, the work is slow, but very rewarding: "My people have suffered so much; that is why I love them so." A story about the church by Dan Martin is published in April Missions-USA.



Mending fishing nets on the docks of Biloxi, fisherman Doug Pham depends on the agility of his toes as well as his fingers. Many fishermen work long hours to make a living; there's little leftover time. (Photos by Joe Clark, for MISSIONSUSA.)



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Choose ye

Some 8,000 messengers are expected to attend the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, April 30-May 2, at their General Assembly in Ft. Worth, Texas. Presently this group of "disenfranchised Southern Baptists" are still in the SBC and trying to coexist with the SBC. This has posed several problems and created a bit of confusion in mission support and theological education.

How long this "convention within a convention" will seek to remain in the convention is unknown. They have adopted a constitution, by-laws, and have incorporated as a legal entity. Apparently they are waiting for their strength to increase or perhaps inviting the SBC to sever the ties.

The CBF has a three-fold plan of giving: regular, venture, and vision 2000. The regular plan supports practically all the agencies of the SBC, but the vision 2000 supports a new world mission venture along with the Richmond Seminary and the George W. Truett Seminary at Baylor University, plus scholarship funds for Duke Divinity School and Emory University.

Probably less than 1,000 of the

36,000 SBC churches are actively supporting the CBF. However, there are numerous individuals from other churches in the fellowship. The non-creedal position and the priesthood of the believer emphasis of the CBF appeal to many Baptists. However, their emphasis toward theological education leaves much to be desired. We hardly need a seminary at Baylor. We have one of the finest a few miles away in Ft. Worth and supporting students at Duke or Emory will hardly qualify as Baptist seminary education.

Eight SBC agencies and institutions had decided to have an exhibit at the Fellowship meeting. Suddenly, after some thunder and lightning from Nashville, they decided the price was more than they were willing to pay and withdrew.

Meanwhile, Stan Hastey, executive director of the Alliance of Baptists, using Martin Niemoller's "they came for me and no one was left to speak up" as his text, observed that many denominational people would be conspicuous by their absence. In particular, he mentioned state executive directors and editors of state Baptist

newspapers. I can speak for only one editor but Hastey, along with some SBC leaders, is seeking to force a decision. It is a choice but only in the fundamental/conservative or moderate/conservative area; an either-or situation. How can it be made plain that a large number of Baptists do not prefer either organization as it is today?

There are many things about the SBC as it is that are not the most admirable. The takeover methods, the caucus method promoting solidarity in voting, and some of the personnel changes taking place can hardly be condoned. Neither do I care for a back-lash effort running parallel with the SBC that gives increasing evidence of being less baptistic today than last year. I had rather spend my energy trying to help the SBC regain integrity than seek alliance with a new organization, which under the trumpet of freedom, is including more tolerance for diversity than warranted by Scripture or polity.

Thankfully we are still Baptists and the individual as well as autonomous churches will make up their mind which way to go. We would not want it any other way.



Viola Smith, a member of First Church, Tolland, Conn., makes daily phone calls to members of her congregation who are having birthdays. "Heritage, Happiness, and Hope in the Senior Years" is the theme for Senior Adult Day, observed May 3.

## One for the road

Bobby Waltman and Lee Mauldin were working the Thursday shift at the Pascagoula Truckers and Travelers Center. Waltman had retired on disability and prayed for a mission assignment. Mauldin is a retired businessman from Moss Point with a desire to serve his fellowman. The center is owned and operated by the Jackson County Association where Ernest Sadler is director of missions.

Bob Storie, staff member of the association, is at the center most of the time and the episodes, experiences, and events are rapidly accumulating. Storie heard a knock at the door on a rainy day and invited the man in.

"No, I can't," he said, "my shoes are too muddy and I'm too dirty." Storie continued to talk to the man and finally got him in to take a bath while he tried to wash his clothes. They turned the water black and almost disintegrated. Storie cleaned his shoes, gave him new socks and clean clothes, and then talked to him about Jesus who can cleanse the soul. The man was so impressed and was overwhelmed with the hospitality.

"It's been so long since I've been in a real house. I don't have much money but I do have 67 cents. Please take it," he said.

There was "Hitch-hiker John" who kept saying, "I can't believe it; no one has ever done anything for me." Another said, "I haven't been home in 10 years."

A woman hitch-hiker said she was a prostitute. She had been robbed and assaulted in Mexico. She wept as she told her story. One man who had been in prison for three years, stayed at the center for two days, trying to get adjusted to the outside world.

The center has a large general purpose room, a snack bar, TV room, telephone area, pingpong, library, music area, along with toilet articles, ironing board, washing machine and dryer, showers, and dressing-rooms for men and women. There are two bedrooms and kitchen for the staff. Relations with the community have been excellent, according to Walton.

The police support it, the Pascagoula Mississippi Press published pictures, and many local churches support it. Support also comes from other areas:

— Pastor Ray Campbell of Escatawpa conducts worship services once each week.

— Several pastors send audio tapes of their services. One trucker came to return a handful of tapes and take some new ones.

— First Church, Picayune sent 25 cakes and Van Cleave's WMU came to clean the whole building.

— A Biloxi man contributed \$100 after a hitch-hiker told him about the center.

— Moss Point Acteens prepared "Have one for the Road" bags with cookies, food, supplies, and gospel tracts inside.

— Holmes Community College BSU came to do the spring cleaning, while Franklin Creek Church of Jackson County planted shrubs and flowers.

— Oak Forest Church, Jackson helped to obtain an ice maker.

Perhaps the favorite of the truckers was the Easter eggs dyed by a group of GAs who wrote a verse of Scripture on each egg. The center is continually in need of toilet articles, school supplies (for the children of hitch-hikers), good clean clothes, towels, baby food and diapers, mops, and food supplies.

Groups are coming this summer from Norman, Okla.; Illinois; Alabama; plus a host of volunteers from Mississippi. The volunteers are especially appreciated in assisting the Jackson County churches to operate the center.

On the wall near the piano is a map of North America with a red dot representing someone from the area who has visited the center. Florida and Texas have the most but they range from Montana to Maine and several from Canada. Pascagoula has a mission center with a world outlook in ministries from a cup of water to a bath and a Bible for the drivers of the 18 wheelers.

## God provides a hand of comfort

By Indy Whitten

Our Aunt "Podie" (Miss Sara Whitten) is a favorite in my husband's family. She is the "entertainer" type. She spent years and years as an English teacher in high school, and she stored in her memory long passages of prose and poetry from English and American literature. In fact, nobody had to twist her arm to get her to recite to a delighted family.

She called herself "the spinster." She once had a boy friend, but for some reason that was never quite clear, marriage never came of the relationship. She was always generous and supportive of her family. She especially encouraged nieces and nephews to go to college and graduate school if at all possible.

When Aunt Podie came to retirement age, she was determined to stay busy doing something. She worked for a while as librarian in her hometown of Ackerman, Miss. Several summers she worked at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in the gift shop. She lived in the old family home in Ackerman, that in life was owned by Rev. H. M. Whitten, a pioneer Baptist preacher in several counties. Aunt Podie named the house "Sparrow's Retreat."

With time and several falls and black-outs, it became evident that

Aunt Podie could no longer live alone. She was admitted to the Choctaw County Nursing Home. It was hard to get her to consent to move and sad that she had to leave Sparrow's Retreat.

We hated to see her gradually decline in health. She came to the point of almost complete disorientation, and often does not even recognize us. Last year she seemed to struggle to reason things out. Once she said, the year she was 95, "I'm a hundred years old. I don't know how I got to be a hundred. I just couldn't help it!"

Last Saturday we went to see her in the nursing home. We didn't find her in her room, so we began to look for her among the rows of wheelchairs in the reception area. We spotted her, tied to the chair by bright orange belts. Her head was drooped over as if she were asleep. As we stood by her chair, a smiling man, seated beside her in another wheelchair, began to gently stroke her hair. He even tried to help her lift up her head and know that she had company.

Charles spoke softly, "Aunt Podie! Aunt Podie!"

She showed no signs that she recognized us. To everything Charles said, she answered, "Yes, Ma'am..."

yes, Ma'am."

The man was very sympathetic with our efforts to communicate with Aunt Podie. Several times he formed his lips as if he wanted to help her answer.

After a while we told Aunt Podie that we had to go. At that point her childhood took over and she said, "Thank you for coming."

Before we left we wanted to thank the man for being so nice and helpful to Aunt Podie.

"Where are you from?" we asked, supposing that he was from Choctaw County.

A blank, confused look came over his face, and he started to talk more about some date in the '20s.

"What's your name?" was our second attempt.

He stammered and stopped short of being able to give us his name.

We then realized that both of them were there side by side in the twilight of conscious human relationships. God had provided for our Aunt Podie a gentle hand of comfort that she could receive.

As we turned to go, we saw Aunt Podie's frail, almost transparent hand reach out and pat the man on the arm.

The Whittens are prayer ministry coordinators, MBCB.

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## Nelson Price voices hope for "open convention"

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "If it is me (who is elected as Southern Baptist Convention president) it will be a new precedent in that the president will not be chosen before the convention this year but at the convention," said Nelson Price, 60 years old, elected last year as SBC first vice president. Price is a native of Osyka, Miss.

Price, one of three candidates for president at the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, was the guest speaker for a recent chapel service at New Orleans Seminary. Pastor of the nearly 8,000-member Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., Price, at the invitation of seminary

president Landrum P. Leavell II, spoke a few minutes about his nomination for convention president before his chapel message on discipleship.

Acknowledging the denomination's 12-year conservative trend, he said, "Reputedly for some years a very small group, proud of the Southern Baptist Convention, chose an individual who would be their candidate for the presidency and almost inevitably that person emerged as the president."

"Those who did that had for some time said there's got to be a day when we get away from that and it becomes an open convention and persons can be nominated

without that individual being chosen in advance of the convention," said Price, a 1956 graduate and former trustee of New Orleans Seminary.

Believing conservative SBC leaders to be sincere in wanting to depart from methods used in past years and since there is no official conservative candidate this year, "I responded to the overture of friends and acknowledged my desire, my willingness, for my name to be put in nomination for president of the convention."

Concerning his personal beliefs, Price asserted, "I am an unashamed conservative.... That's our basic (See PRICE on page 9)

## Project Brotherhood goes to Moscow to distribute food and medicines

By Tim Nicholas

At the request of the Baptist World Alliance, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is leading a North American Baptist response to the food and medical needs of the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the Soviet Union). The Brotherhood Commission is working with the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and the Woman's Missionary Union to accomplish this task.

This cooperative effort is called Project Brotherhood. And Mississippi Baptists are fully involved, according to Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department.

Mississippi Baptists have committed two volunteer teams recruited from the disaster relief task force to go to Moscow to work two weeks each in the food distribution project, said Harrell.

The first team will work in Moscow the first two weeks in

May. Jim Didlake will be heading the team. Didlake is a consultant in the Brotherhood Department. Other team members are Lee Castle, pastor of First Church, Macon; Don Tew, pastor of Shuqualak Church; Jerry Massey, pastor of First Church, Durant; and Tim Nicholas, director of the Office of Communication at the convention board.

The second wave of Mississippians will go in mid-July. That team is being recruited now.

The food is United States Department of Agriculture surplus provided by the government and secured through a grant to Brothers' Brother, Inc., a non-profit relief organization in Washington. Southern Baptists are distributing about 570 tons of the food, ten percent of the total shipment. The rest is being distributed through the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Moscow teams will be helping to distribute the food from a

warehouse through Moscow Baptist Church and some 40 mission points throughout the city. According to Linda Lawson of the Baptist Sunday School Board, who participated as a member of the first team, food will also be provided to about 30 orphanages, homes for the elderly, and other institutions.

This distribution should provide four pounds each of flour and rice and two pounds each of beans and powdered milk for some 40,000 needy families in the Moscow area. Families will bring their own containers for vegetable and butter oil and for baby formula for those needing it.

"We will be meeting temporary, short-term needs with these one-time food gifts," said Dennis Quinn, who, with his wife, Jennifer, are on-site coordinators for the Moscow arm of the project.

The Moscow project is to last four (See MOSCOW on page 9)

## Anne McWilliams will retire May 31

Anne McWilliams, a staff member of the Baptist Record since 1953, has announced her retirement for May 31. She is currently serving as associate editor of the paper.

Anne is well-known in Southern Baptist journalism. Her "Faces and Places" column could well be the most widely-read of any column of any paper in the state. She has worked with five editors: A. L. Goodrich, W. C. Fields, Joe Odle, Don McGregor, and the present editor.

Many feature articles are turned out each year as Anne covers the church news of Mississippi. She was the first reporter in the SBC to write the story of the conversion of Manuel Noriega, former Panamanian president. Along with that, Anne has reported on churches in revival, homecomings, mission activities, and other areas of interest to the reader.

The National Federation of Press Women awarded Anne second place in national personal column competition one year. She has authored four books: *Beside the Point: The Gulfshore Story*; *South of the Sahara*, a mission study; *David Gomes: When Faith Triumphs*; and *Sent to Love*, a biography of former Mississippi missionaries to Spain and Equatorial Guinea Charles and Indy Whitten.

Anne has traveled the globe



McWilliams

seeking news stories to share with her readers. She has visited hundreds of missionaries at their posts on four continents, and has a great interest in all mission work.

She is a native of Alabama, and a graduate of Judson College, which named her Alumna of the Year in 1984. She received the master of religious education from Southwestern Seminary; and has a master's degree in English from Mississippi College.

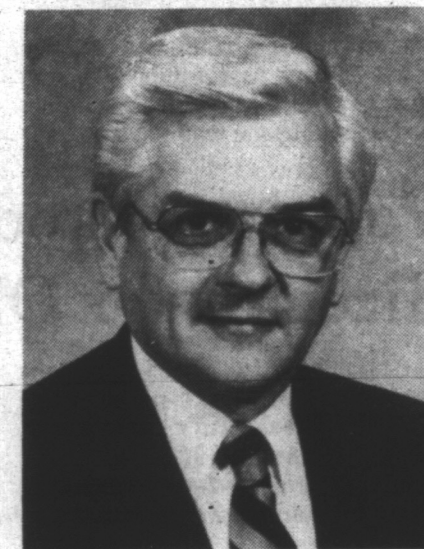
Anne will continue to write, and will possibly continue to write for the Baptist Record. She and her husband, W. D., live in Clinton, and are members of Morrison Heights Church.

## BMC's Fisher heads up national association

E. Harold Fisher, president of Blue Mountain College, became the first Mississippian to lead the National School Boards Association when he was inducted as president of the 97,000-member group April 27 in Orlando, Fla.

"It is the nation that will benefit from Fisher's leadership," said South Panola schools superintendent, David Cole, who serves with Fisher on the state Commission for School Accreditation. "He provides very meticulous and expert leadership. Nobody gets anything past him."

Fisher has a bachelor's degree in history and elementary education and a master's degree in school administration. (See FISHER on page 9)



Fisher

## Christian Action Commission announces anti-lottery strategy

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission announced the beginning of a state-wide strategy to defeat the proposed state-operated lottery. The strategy will begin on May 1 with the release of a newly developed strategy guide and educational piece, "The Lottery — Why We Care."

"A state-wide strategy of education and awareness is of primary importance if concerned citizens are to refute the false and misleading claims of the lottery industry," said Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. "The average citizen is not aware of the economic, social, family, educational and business problems experienced in states which have legalized a state lottery," Jones continued.

The strategy develops a month-by-month plan to inform and educate about a lottery and sets forth a means of reaching into the homes of the voters of Mississippi with factual, easily understood information. The plan also provides an opportunity for local churches to use the voter

awareness time as a means of witness and evangelistic outreach. "We have a 'Vision for Victory' which can assist the Christian community helping change people so they can change their world," Jones said.

The new guide "The Lottery — Why We Care" is designed to provide concerned citizens with reasons to oppose a state-operated lottery. Separate sections address the problems of a lottery as an inappropriate role of government, as an inadequate answer to budget problems, as an inefficient and unstable

revenue source, and as a regressive tax policy. The guide also addresses the problem of the creation of a new generation of gamblers, the negative impact on business, the relation of lottery to crime and corruption, and the problem of compulsive gambling as addictive behavior. The impact of lottery on the poor, the home, and the image citizens will have of state government are also covered.

The lottery awareness guide costs \$7.95 plus postage. The guide includes all pamphlets produced by the Christian Action Commission on lottery and gambling. Moreover, by returning a form in each guide, the purchaser will receive periodic updates on new information about the lottery. Jones said, "Many who have seen the guide believe that this may be the best \$7.95 that will be spent in Mississippi this year."

Persons desiring to receive the awareness guide "The Lottery — Why We Care" can contact the Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 968-3800.



## New Nominee for FMB Trustee:

## Committee chairman defends Paul Pressler

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP)—The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations said he feels "even greater confidence in the way our Southern Baptist system works" as the 68-member committee released its 1992 nominees for trustees or directors of SBC-related agencies and institutions.

Chairman Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Church in Moore, Okla., also defended the nomination of Paul Pressler as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board. Pressler, a Texas appeals court judge in Houston, has been a key leader of the SBC conservative movement and last year concluded two terms on the SBC Executive Committee.

"Judge Pressler is a man who loves God with all his heart and has a tremendous heart for missions," Boyles said. "He has

served tirelessly for years to the best of his ability in our denomination. I respect him for his commitment to the Word of God."

Pressler was nominated for the FMB board by the two Texas representatives on the Committee on Nominations, Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Church in Amarillo, and Luan Stallings, a layperson from Big Spring. Baptist Press could not reach either committee member for comment about Pressler's nomination.

Boyles said his experience as Committee on Nominations chairman "has reconfirmed in my mind, in my heart that we have the best denominational system the world has ever known. It is fair, it is equitable in representation. And the agencies and boards receive the best each convention has to offer."

Toalston writes for BP.

## Causey, Cochran will speak to BMC grads

The 1992 commencement activities at Blue Mountain College will be held Sunday, May 3. The baccalaureate service will be at 11 a.m. in the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium with Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivering the sermon.

The commencement program is scheduled for 3 p.m. in Nodena Lowrey Berry Auditorium. Senator Thad Cochran, Mississippi's senior senator, will be the featured speaker.

Cochran will be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Blue Mountain College in recognition of his distinguished political service, his contributions to the State of Mississippi and to the United States, and his support of and commitment to Blue Mountain College.

There are 92 candidates for degrees from four states and Taiwan. Seventeen Mississippi counties are represented among the graduates.

## Pastor elected executive director for Ohio Baptists

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP) — Orville H. Griffin, a pastor and denominational staffer in the Ohio convention since 1954, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

He was the unanimous recommendation of the search committee and was elected with only three dissenting votes by the convention's executive board at its April meeting in

Columbus. He takes office May 1.

Griffin, 60, has been acting executive director since the death of Tal D. Bonham, the former executive director, last fall. He served under Bonham as associate executive director, and handled Cooperative Program, stewardship, annuity, Foundation, and other assignments.

Earlier, he was evangelism director of Ohio.

## Baptists Committed closes its doors

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP) — Baptists Committed, one of several opposition groups that sprang up as fundamental-conservatives rose to power in the Southern Baptist Convention, is closing its doors.

In a letter to the organization's members, James Slatton, chairman of the executive committee for Baptists Committed, said the four-year-old group will close its national office at the end of May and throw its support behind the new Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The dissolution of Baptists Committed leaves the Alliance of Baptists as the only major opposition group, other than the Fellowship, still in existence. Formerly the Southern Baptist Alliance, the Washington-based organization currently is discussing a merger or other official relationship with the Fellowship.



"Bold Believers in a Broken World" will be the theme of the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11 in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis. Some 20,000 messengers representing Southern Baptist churches from across the country are expected for the annual three-day session that may include a three-way contest for SBC president, action on the issue of homosexuality, and a visit by Vice President Dan Quayle. A large-scale evangelistic campaign, "Crossover Indianapolis," will precede the convention sessions, along with various meetings of SBC-related organizations.

## Pastors' Conference

## Annual Meeting

June 7-8, 1992

Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis

Theme: The Church in the 21st Century

## Sunday, June 7

6:00 Choral Praise — Prestonwood Church Choir and Orchestra, Dallas  
6:15 Welcome — Jack Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Church, Dallas  
6:20 Musical Praise — Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra  
6:25 Message — O.S. Hawkins, pastor, First Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
7:05 Praise and Worship — Dick Baker, minister of music at-large, Prestonwood Church, Dallas  
7:10 Musical Praise — Chris and Diane Machen, music evangelists, Dallas  
7:20 Message — Bill Hybels, pastor, Willow Creek Community Church, Chicago  
8:10 Praise and Worship — Dick Baker  
8:15 Offertory and Prayer — Kenneth Barnett, pastor, South Wadsworth Church, Denver  
8:20 Musical Praise — Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra  
8:30 Message — Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.  
9:10 Benediction — Robert Graham, pastor, Field Street Church, Cleburne, Texas

## Monday morning, June 8

8:30 Choral Praise — Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra  
8:50 Scripture and Prayer  
8:55 Praise and Worship — Dick Baker  
9:00 Musical Praise — Dawn Smith Jordan, musical evangelist, Fort Worth, Texas  
9:05 Message — Mike Hamlet, pastor, First Church, Spartanburg, S.C.  
9:45 Special Music — Dawn Smith Jordan  
9:50 Message — James Merritt, pastor, First Church, Snellville, Ga.  
10:25 Prayer and Offering  
10:30 Musical Praise — Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra  
10:40 Message — Larry Thompson, Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala.  
11:15 Praise and Worship — Todd Bell, minister of music, Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala.  
11:20 Message — Jim Henry, pastor, First Church, Orlando, Fla.  
11:55 Benediction

## Monday afternoon, June 8

1:15 Mini Concert — TRUTH  
1:30 Praise and Worship — Dick Baker  
1:35 Scripture and Praise — Rodney Gage, evangelist, Dallas  
1:40 Musical Praise — Jack Price, SBC music director, Dallas  
1:45 Message — Jay Strack, evangelist, Dallas  
2:05 Praise and Worship — Dick Baker  
2:10 Musical Praise — Michelle Gage, musician, Dallas  
2:20 Message — Fred Lowery, pastor, First Church, Bossier City, La.  
2:50 Prayer and Offering  
2:55 Praise and Worship — Todd Bell  
3:00 Election of Officers  
3:15 Music and Praise — TRUTH  
3:20 Message — Joseph Stowell, president, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago  
3:50 Musical Praise — Chris and Diane Machen  
3:55 Message — Joel Gregory, pastor, First Church, Dallas  
4:40 Benediction

## Monday evening, June 8

6:10 Choral Praise — First Church, Norfolk, Va.  
6:30 Praise and Worship — Todd Bell  
6:35 Scripture and Prayer — Wendell Estep, pastor, First Church, Columbia, S.C.  
6:40 Musical Praise — TRUTH  
6:50 Message — Kenneth Cooper, physician, founder, Cooper Fitness Center, Dallas  
7:20 Welcome — Morris Chapman, SBC president, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas  
7:25 Praise and Worship — Todd Bell  
7:35 Prayer and Offering — Ed Young Jr., pastor, Las Colinas, Texas  
7:40 Musical Praise — Chris and Diane Machen  
7:45 Message — Ed Young, pastor, Second Church, Houston  
8:20 Choral Praise — First Church, Norfolk, Va.  
8:30 Message — Tony Evans, pastor, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas  
Introduction of New Officers  
Benediction — New Pastors' Conference president

## SBREA will meet June 7-8, pre-SBC

By Art Toalston

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — A past, present, and future look at "empowerment" will be the focus of the 37th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association June 7-8.

The SBREA, which will meet at Adam's Mark Hotel in Indianapolis, is among several annual meetings of ministry-oriented organizations prior to the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention in the Hoosier Dome.

"Empowerment — Learning from the Past, Ministering in the Present and Forging the Future" will be the theme of the meeting. Bill Gambrell, minister of education at First Church, Jackson, Miss., is the current SBREA president.

Keener Pharr, who has been in religious education work since 1946, will speak on the "past" aspect of empowerment during the meeting's opening session at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 7.

Pharr, who received SBREA's distinguished leader award last year, is president of Church Growth Priorities, Inc., in Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Ken Hemphill, pastor of First Church in Norfolk, Va., will speak on the "present" aspect of empowerment at 6:45 p.m. June 7. Hemphill has been elected to the new position of director of church growth jointly related to the Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board.

The Sunday evening session will conclude with a testimony by Jimmy Dunn, minister of education at First Church in Nashville, of people who empower his ministry there.

"Empowerment groups" on such religious education emphases as family ministry, spiritual gifts, and reaching non-Christians with Bible study will be offered during the 8:30 a.m. session Monday, June 8.

Art Criscoe, director of management of the Sunday School Board Discipleship Training Department's support section, will speak on the "future" aspect of empowerment during the 2 p.m. session June 8.

Perry Langston, who died in February, will be honored posthumously with SBREA's distinguished leader award. Langston was professor of religious education at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., from 1950 until retirement in 1986.

Toalston writes for BP.

## Perry County passes messengers resolution

The Perry County Baptist Association has passed a resolution supporting the SBC Executive Committee's motion against homosexuality and requesting the SBC not to seat the messengers from two North Carolina churches which condone the homosexual lifestyle. The association also favors changing SBC by-laws to exclude any church favoring the homosexual lifestyle.



## MBTS trustees adopt abortion resolution

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Trustees of Midwestern Seminary adopted a strongly-worded resolution on abortion and voted to increase their involvement in the process of selecting adjunct faculty during their annual meeting, April 6-7.

The board approved a resolution opposing abortion on demand recommended by the trustees' instruction committee. In the 17-paragraph resolution, they said abortion on demand is "immoral, unethical, and unbiblical."

Among the faculty, response to the resolution could be characterized as "a deep sense of hurt," W. Hulitt Gloer, professor of New Testament, told the board.

"Faculty members perceive the resolution to be directed at them," Gloer said. "Faculty members feel that the resolution implies that board members believe that faculty members hold unacceptable views with regard to this issue and that these views need to be restricted. In short, faculty members feel that the resolution reflects an attitude of suspicion toward the faculty which indicates an underlying lack of trust."

The faculty affirmed "the right of the board of trustees to adopt a resolution setting forth its views on this issue," Gloer noted. However, he said the faculty feels the resolution "has the effect of setting parameters on acceptable responses to an issue which lies outside the bounds of the seminary's Articles of Faith. In so doing, it sets up a new test of orthodoxy and acceptability which goes beyond the governing documents of the institution."

## HMB PR director takes position with World Vision

ATLANTA (BP) — Jim Newton, public relations director for the Home Mission Board, has been named director of media relations for World Vision International.

Based in Monrovia, Calif., World Vision is an international relief and development organization which works with poor and hungry people around the world.

Newton will work with journalists at the Monrovia office as well as regional offices in London, England; Bangkok, Thailand; Nairobi, Kenya; and San Jose, Costa Rica. He will also help coordinate media relations in the 90 countries where World Vision works.

Newton has worked for the Home Mission Board 11 years, including eight as news and information director. He has also been Atlanta bureau chief for Baptist Press for years.

Before working for the Home Mission Board, Newton was editor of World Mission Journal published by the Brotherhood Commission. Earlier he was also assistant director of Baptist Press in Nashville.

Newton is married to the former Pat Tullos of Clinton.

Thursday, April 30, 1992



The Lightshine Players



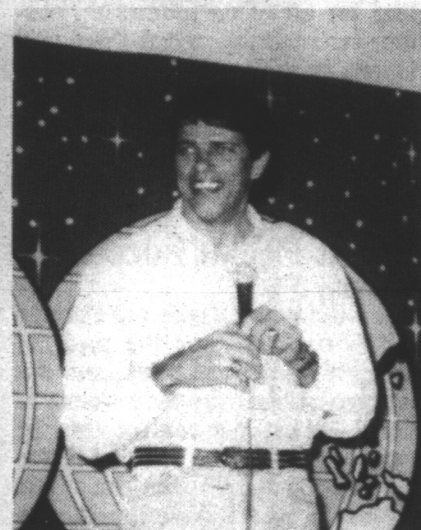
Joy Troupe



Helen Hoggatt Price



Kelly Kee



John Croyle



Jada Neal

## Coed missions convention draws 1,000

Swor Auditorium at Mississippi College was host to 1,000 youths from across the state for the first annual Youth Coed Missions Convention sponsored by the WMU and Brotherhood departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on April 10-11.

The theme of the convention was "Light Your World." Three general sessions carried this theme. Friday night introduced the convention with "Light Your World." Saturday morning continued the theme with "You Are the Light of the World." The convention concluded Saturday afternoon with the challenge to all to "Go...Light Your World."

The theme of the convention was further interpreted by the "Light-Shine Players," from First Church, Jackson, and the "Joy Troupe" from First Church, Columbus. Hi-Tech ministries from Gulfport provided special lighting and sound effects. The interpretations were

written and directed by Cindy Pelphrey, Acteen leader from First Church, Columbus. Pelphrey was the chairman of the Youth Coed Missions Committee.

Each session featured program speaker John Croyle from Gadsden, Ala., director of Big Oak Ranch, inspired the young people and sponsors with his experiences with the troubled young people who come through his ministry. Also featured were Kyle and Susan Matthews, recording artists from Nashville, Tenn., who praise the Lord through original songs and storytelling.

Conferences were held on Saturday with Helen Price, GA Camp Director and Counselor, teaching the conference on "Relationships." "Missions and Ministry" was led by Shari Barnes, Crestwood Mission Center; Puppets by Auburn Church of Saltillo; Sojourners Emily Dossett and Suzannah White; summer missionary

Dwayne Doyle; Andy Morris led World Changers and drama by "Gift of Song" from Ole Miss BSU.

One of the highlights was testimonies from Chuck Chapman, Mary Jane Gibson, Heather McCombs, Aline Porter, and Renee Sappington who shared their experiences with Acteens Activators and Innovators Program and World Changers.

Acteen Kelly Kee from Woodville gave praise to the Lord for the recent report that she was free from cancer. One year ago at the Mississippi Acteens Convention, Acteens prayed for Kelly, 14, who had been diagnosed with cancer in her leg. This year, Kelly was able to stand before the 1,000 youth and share the goodness of God's grace to her. A standing ovation followed her challenge to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding, in all your ways

acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths."

Preceding the start of the convention, 135 Acteens and leaders gathered in the Hall of Fame Room in the Student Union Center to recognize 75 girls from across our state who had completed different levels of achievement in StudiAct. Bibles were presented to each in honor of her achievements. Helen Price brought an inspiring and challenging message using the "Word" as an acronym: "W" for wisdom, "O" for obedience, "R" for righteous, and "D" for devotion. These are four benefits of applying God's Word in helping to "Light Your World."

A highlight of the Queen's banquet was the presentation of the Mississippi Citation Award to Jada Neal of First Church, Mantee. This is the highest award an Acteen can receive in StudiAct. Since keeping record of Citation awards, only 16 have been given.

## Church Music Conference: "Joy for the Journey" is set for June 7-8, Northside Church, Indianapolis

By Art Toalston

INDIANAPOLIS, (BP) — Church musicians will be offered "Joy for the Journey" during the 36th annual session of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference prior to the June 9-11 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

The June 7-8 music conference's theme focuses on "joy in Christian service, joy for the long haul," said Bob Hatfield, conference president and minister of music at Dawson Memorial Church in Birmingham,

Ala., the past 13 years.

Northside Church in Indianapolis will host the music conference and members of the congregation will share Sunday evening worship June 7 with conference participants.

Scheduled to give concerts is the Carillon and Covenant Handbell Choir and Vocal Ensemble from University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, among others.

Gary Fenton, Dawson Memorial pastor, will preach during worship times Sunday evening and June 8 at

8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

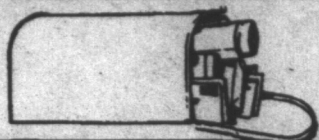
Themes for special interest sessions at 3:45 p.m. June 7 and 2 p.m. June 8 include "Worship and Praise in the Nineties," "Praise and Worship... A Contemporary Approach," "Teaching Children to Sing," "Working Through Burnout," and "Stress Management."

The Hines Sims Award for outstanding contributions to the field of church music will be presented Monday evening. The award is named for Sims, editor of the

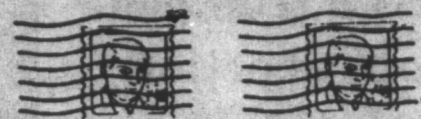
Baptist Hymnal, 1956 Edition, and secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Music Department from 1952 until his retirement in 1970. The award has been given since 1971 for Sims, who lives in Nashville. Three lifetime memberships to distinguished church musicians also will be presented Monday evening and three compositions commissioned by the conference will be premiered.

Toalston writes for BP.





# Letters to the editor



## HMB won't tackle issue

Editor:

I read with dismay the article "Home Board directors decline Freemasonry study" in the March 26 Baptist Record. The Home Board apparently does not want to tackle the question of Freemasonry, claiming "it is not a religion even if a minority of the members treat it as such." I would like to take issue with this statement. Even if only one person views Freemasonry as a religion, then Christians should be concerned. Second, it isn't just "a minority of the members" who consider Freemasonry a religion. I can state without reservation that Freemasonry is a religion. Note:

"Every Masonic Temple is a Temple of Religion, and its teachings are instructions in religion" (Morals and Dogmas of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, by Albert Pike, p. 213).

"It (Masonry) is the universal, eternal, immutable religion, such as God planted it in the heart of universal humanity. No creed has ever been long-lived that was not built on this foundation. It is the base and they are the superstructure" (Pike, p. 219).

Freemasonry, by its own admission, is a religion. Of course, any religion has to have something it worships. And who or what does Freemasonry worship?

So, why steer clear of this? It's partly because the Masons have managed to gloss over their true teachings so well that most Baptists really do see Freemasonry as (to quote HMB's Gary Leazer) "a place where grown up men can play like boys." How different from what Paul wrote: "When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me" (1 Cor. 13:11, NIV).

As long as the HMB (and Christians in general) continue to avoid confronting uncomfortable or controversial topics, we will keep idly watching as Freemasonry, Mormonism, New Age, and other cults and false teachings continue to grow faster than Christianity, and wondering what's happening.

If we're really serious about doing front-line battle against the Enemy, we have to be willing to fight him on all fronts. If this means stepping on the toes of some of our membership, so be it. Jesus never worried about telling it like it is. Why should we do differently?

Frank Williams  
Biloxi

## "Moral mess"

Editor:

Thank you for your editorial of March 26, 1992 entitled "Living in an X-rated society." You did a great job of pointing out what's wrong with our society and then told us some things we could do about it.

There is no question that moral decay has set in or that the decadence is spreading. This is something that should burden the heart of every Christian. Our "head in

the sand" approach to the tremendous problems present in our society has contributed to the "moral mess" in which we find ourselves.

It's past time for us to speak out against such things as abortion, homosexuality, pornography, sexual immorality, alcohol abuse, drugs, etc. But, will we? In the April 1992 issue of the AFA Journal, Donald Wildmon editorialized on "the god of apathy." He told of two people giving up trying to get local churches involved.

God is still in control. But, it is time for all of us (churches, pastors, associations, and the denomination) to do something about the problem. Again, thanks for speaking out in such a forceful way.

L. Edward Gandy  
Corinth

## About Parks' successor

Editor:

As missionaries with our Foreign Mission Board for the past 34 years, we just want to express our concerns about the retirement of Keith Parks. We realize that he resigned because he felt that it was the Lord's will at this time. His reasoning, as we have heard, was because he felt that his philosophy of missions was directly opposed to that of the board of trustees of the FMB. We believe that Parks was firmly committed to the concept of Bold Mission Thrust, which we also believe came as a mandate from the Lord to Southern Baptists many years ago. We are convinced that Parks is committed to the preaching of the Bible as the infallible Word of God, so the differences with our board of trustees was not a theological one.

We have tried to stay out of this SBC controversy and just minister, as our Lord called us, to a lost world. We have prayed constantly from the beginning that we would be allowed to make disciples, who in turn will make disciples, which we feel is God's way of evangelizing the world. We see Southern Baptists, under our present leadership, a people trying to rely more and more on the mass evangelism technique to win the world. Big groups of people come to the mission field, have big campaigns, and come home reporting thousands of decisions to say, "We won more to the Lord in two weeks than the missionaries won in the past five years." That all sounds wonderful until you see what happens to all those people who raised their hands, or signed decision cards. Parks was committed to winning the world, but he knew, as we do, that in order to do this, it is going to take missionaries who live in countries among people long enough to incarnate the love of God. This is the only way we are going to make real disciples who will go on to win their countries for the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not know who our board of trustees has in mind to head up our mission board in the future, but we pray it will be a person who has had at least 15 years of missionary experience, and that the trustees won't make any decisions without first

asking our 3,900+ missionaries who are out there trying to live out the gospel!

Sam and Ginny Cannata  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## "Objectivity...dead"

Editor:

I read with great interest the letter by Jon Doler in the April 9, 1992 Baptist Record. Though I disagreed with Doler's premise, the literary comparison of the SBC controversy to the Trojan horse was creative. Prior to the conservative resurgence, he admits that "Southern Baptists were not perfect." I cannot think of a more profound understatement. My reason for writing, however, transcends my difference of opinion with Doler. Responsible Southern Baptists can draw their own conclusions from the records of the last 13 years.

My concern is that editorial objectivity is apparently dead at the Baptist Record. Why was a cartoon image of the Trojan horse printed with the letter? Did Doler include it, or was it inserted to demonstrate the editor's wholesale agreement with Doler's argument? I have never noticed a cartoon when a conservative letter was printed.

Why have you never illustrated a letter with a picture of Paige Patterson or Jerry Vines, clad in knight's armor, holding high the Sword of the Spirit, God's perfect Word? Perhaps you could insert a graphic design with my letter depicting the coffin of theological liberalism being nailed shut with a Bible serving as the hammer.

David W. Bailey  
Tylertown

Editor's Note: Sorry, neither Paige Patterson nor Jerry Vines has written to the editor.

## Day of intolerance

Editor:

We, as Southern Baptists, will face a new day of intolerance when we exclude messengers from churches who believe differently than we do.

Our founders knew exactly what they were doing when they built our convention on a non-creedal foundation!

They purposefully allowed no churches, no associations, or state conventions to become members of the convention body.

We, as a convention, are comprised of messengers who meet annually from churches who cooperate financially to the great cause of missions.

The all-wise and "sovereign" body called the Executive Committee desires the convention to change the rules.

The change being caused over churches that are not intolerant to human beings who are homosexuals.

So we as the great Southern Baptist Convention decide to exclude messengers from churches because they have homosexual members, gay pastors, and gay couples.

The next messengers to be excluded will be from churches that have ordained women pastors and deacons.

Let us be scriptural in this matter! Exclude all messengers from churches that have adulterous members, lying members, Sabbath-breaking members, covetous members, and thieving members!

In the name of the Almighty please do not let us stop with the homosexuals. We should purge the convention of all sinners.

In two years after such action all mankind will know there will be no Southern Baptist Convention.

No convention has the authority to exclude messengers unless they

represent non-cooperating churches. Go ahead — change that!

Let us establish doctrinal creeds, an SBC-theology, and a set of standards to impose upon all local churches. Let us become a creedal people after 147 years of being a non-creedal people.

Let us become a confessional government.

denomination. At that time we can stand in awe and praise ourselves for abandoning our historic views of government.

Then and there we can rejoice that we have joined the Protestant and Catholic bodies and that we have become what they are!

Just as we were born, founded, and established in the heresy of slavery we can die in the heresy of denying the priesthood of the believer and autonomy of the local churches.

We can bow down at the feet of intolerance and praise ourselves for losing our heads!

Wendell Wentz  
Clinton, Missouri

## "Take action"

Editor:

When I read in the Baptist Record that the Pullen and Binkley Memorial Baptist churches in North Carolina had sanctioned homosexuality I couldn't believe my eyes. How could a Southern Baptist church stray so far in doctrinal teaching?

In the past 12 years the Southern Baptist Convention has made great strides in purging the modernists and liberals from the boards and committees that govern our convention. We cannot stop now. We cannot allow these ungodly people to regain their stranglehold in our convention and water down the Word of God. Our denomination has been so careful in following the Scriptures as its doctrine.

I have attended a Southern Bap-

tist church as long as I can remember. I'm almost 65 years old and I never thought I would ever be ashamed to be called a Southern Baptist. Churches of other denominations have gone off the deep end and allowed liberalism to creep into their denominations. Now it has happened to us Southern Baptists.

The Pullen Memorial Baptist Church "blessed" a homosexual union between two homosexual men. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church voted to license a homosexual divinity student. This is an outrage; an affront to the blessed Word of God. God himself calls homosexuality an abomination (Lev. 20:13), and unseemly (Rom. 1:27). Nothing so unsavory; so sickening; so disgusting; so sinful; should ever be tolerated in a Southern Baptist church.

We cannot deny that these churches are autonomous and can do as they choose. But we can't let them do this and remain in the Southern Baptist Convention. They will send their messengers to the convention meetings. Their votes could influence the outcome of issues that could affect every Southern Baptist church throughout the convention.

If these churches choose to overlook homosexuality as a great sin, that is their decision, but we as Christians who wish to keep our doctrine pure, must not stand by and allow these churches to flaunt their actions and defame God's Holy Word. We must insist that immediate action be initiated to expel these ungodly churches from our beloved Southern Baptist Convention.

W.D. Mason Jr.  
Hemando, Mississippi

## Baptist unity lost

Editor:

A China pastor friend wrote: "Unity is not a matter of belief, but of love. Sometimes, as in a family, there is discord within the church. The problem is a lack of love... the purity of the faith is important, but we should remember that 'these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love' (1 Cor. 13:13)."

Unity among Baptists is almost a lost art. The world will know we are Christians by our love for one another. All people will know God when our mutual respect for the beliefs of others are shown to be real. At least, that is the attitude Jesus prayed we would have, for only then will all men know that God the Father sent him (John 17).

So all those who are claiming to want to see the whole world brought to Christ while refusing to work as one with other Christians are only fooling themselves and are their own, and Christ's, worst enemies. Until Christians can present a "united front" to a lost world, it will stay lost until that great gettin'-up morning.

Britt E. Towery  
retired missionary to Taiwan and Hong Kong  
Waco, Texas



# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 30, 1992

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

by Dan Davis,  
Mantee Baptist Church

I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for the honor and privilege of being able to go to Zimbabwe to assist in the spreading of His Word and His Name. I was also honored to be able to go with my Pastor Malcolm Pinion on this trip, as well as the other team members. Getting to know the other team members was one of the rewards of the trip.

We had a good trip. It was a long trip. It was a hard trip. It was a rewarding trip. Would I go back? Probably so. The name of Jesus was proclaimed and souls were saved as a result of the trip. We had a good trip to Zimbabwe and it was an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

The people were very warm, hospitable and very receptive to the Word. They did their very best to make us feel welcome and comfortable in what were sometime difficult situations. The people are of a different race, culture, background, than that of the team members, but the same God made us all, so this was not a problem. The people are not so time conscious, more outgoing and not ashamed to express their love for Christ before others. We could learn from them!

I have a much greater respect for what we as Southern Baptists are doing with our Lottie Moon offering and Cooperative Program monies and gifts. One cannot come back from a trip such as this without a deeper love and respect for our missionaries the world over for the witness they are providing to the world thru their lives and their dedication to their work for the Lord.

We appreciate more fully the work that Paul Harrell and the others are doing to promote this partnership with Zimbabwe.

*This is the third in a series of testimonials from people who have traveled to Zimbabwe to participate in the Partnership project Mississippi Baptists have begun with that African country. Other testimonials are scheduled to follow.*

**NOTE:** There are two or three vacancies for witnesses on an evangelistic team for May 11-18. For details, contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator, at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Those interested should inquire with Hardy.

HT

## Bible • Preaching • Administration Conference

July 23 - 25, 1992  
Gulfshore  
Baptist  
Assembly

Sponsored by:  
Church  
Administration/  
Pastoral Ministries Dept., MBCB

A Ministry of the  
Cooperative Program

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the  
World to Jesus"



Dr. Waylon Bailey  
Professor  
New Orleans Theological  
Seminary



Dr. Paul Powell  
President  
Annuity Board, Dallas



Dr. Mark Short  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Baptist Convention



Rev. Robert Sheffield  
Deacon Consultant  
Church Administration  
Department, BSSB

### Program Personnel:

#### PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Dr. Waylon Bailey, Professor, New Orleans  
Theological Seminary  
Dr. Paul Powell, President, Annuity Board,  
Dallas  
Dr. Mark Short, Executive Director, Louisiana  
Baptist Convention

#### DEACONS

Rev. Robert Sheffield, Deacon Consultant,  
Church Administration Department,  
Baptist Sunday School Board

#### MUSIC

Mr. Rick Greene, Minister of Music, Daniel  
Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson  
Mrs. Patsy Alford, Organist, Daniel Memorial  
Baptist Church, Jackson

#### Other leaders

#### MINISTERS WIVES

Mrs. Betty Dobbs, wife of Administrative Assis-  
tant for Ministry, Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

#### SECRETARIES

Mrs. Nancee Ratliff, financial secretary, First  
Baptist Church, Tupelo

#### YOUTH

Rev. Rob Futral, pastor, Horseshoe Baptist  
Church, Tchula

**INFANTS THROUGH CHILDREN**  
coordinated by Karen Buckles

**CHURCH MISSION DEVELOPMENT**  
coordinated by Ray Grissett

**CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY**  
coordinated by Farrell Blankenship

**STEWARDSHIP**  
coordinated by David Michel

### Dear Friends,

*This year's Bible • Preaching • Administration  
Conference at Gulfshore has been designed to  
provide both inspiration and information to  
help you in the work to which God has  
appointed you.*

*The thrust of our program is focused on the  
Convention objective of "Helping to Bring Mis-  
sissippi and the World to Jesus." You will find  
help in understanding and implementing your  
work in church administration and pastoral  
ministries. Pastors, other staff members,  
deacons, and church and associational  
secretaries may choose special tracks of study.  
Ministers' wives and family members (including  
children of all ages) will find sessions designed  
for them.*

*We are glad to share our conference with  
representatives from the Cooperative Missions  
Department, Stewardship Department, and  
Media Library workers.*

*We sincerely hope you will decide today to  
come to the beautiful Gulf Coast and attend  
our conference on July 23-25, 1992. Please  
contact me at the Church Administration/  
Pastoral Ministries Department by calling  
968-3800, ext. 3905. There is no cost for this  
conference other than your lodging and meals.*

Sincerely,  
Julius C. Thompson





## Observe Associational Missions Week, May 18-24, *The Association: Living Our Legacy of Missions*

### An Historical Glance UNION COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

- Organized September 30, 1919 at First Baptist Church, New Albany
- There were 28 Charter Churches.
- First Director of Missions 1945-1949
- Foster Missions Program began in 1969
- Part-Time Missions Program 1971
- Full-Time Missionary Program 1975
- Office Purchased in 1986
- In 1992 there are 42 churches in the association.

#### THE FULLY STAFFED PROGRAMS AND MANY MINISTRIES INCLUDE:

##### CLOTHING CENTER MINISTRY:

This is a sharing/caring ministry that deals directly with people in need.

This year the following were helped:

- 1,127 families
- 30,113 pieces of clothing and household goods were distributed.
- 8 burned-out families were helped.

##### EMERGENCY FOOD:

Another ministry that deals directly with people who have urgent, immediate needs.

We had over 4,245 items donated to us this year. We distributed 3,095 items of food. We ministered to 194 families.

Through our monetary part of this ministry, we received \$1,447.80. We spent \$1,056.76 of this for food, gas, medicine, etc. The people of our association are faithful in supplying for these needs.

##### GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER: 723 COULTER DRIVE

Since the Good Samaritan Center opened in November 1987, it has distributed \$61,572.75 to needy Union Countians for assistance with housing and utilities.

From Oct. 1, 1990, to Sept. 30, 1991, we helped 265 households in housing and utilities. We distributed \$13,800.46.

##### EXTERNAL MISSIONS:

Twelve men made a mission trip to the Metro Peoria Baptist Association to do construction work on First Baptist Church, Metamora, Illinois.

We were able to complete some much needed work during the week. We replaced the ceiling in two Sunday School rooms, and built a new roof over these rooms. We painted the sanctuary, installed a shower and some partitions in a rest room, built several shelves and did several repair jobs.

We were all very much encouraged by the great faith and determination of our Christian brothers and sisters in Illinois.

##### SAV-A-LIFE:

This past year our office, working with a Right-To-Life group, saw 39 young ladies. Several of these have been very active church members professing to be Christians and have prayed for the Lord to forgive their sin.

The ministry is asking that the church recognize the needs of these people with the love only God can give us.

We want to thank the Lord for the nine saved. Many leave the office knowing they are lost, rejecting God's love. Training is available to help give a good working knowledge of counseling techniques properly under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Films and speakers will be made available to any church this year.

### A TRIBUTE TO MY DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS by Mitchell Ferguson

The following is an edited version of the sermon for Reverend Billy Ballard. Brother Ballard served as Director of Missions of Smith Baptist Association until his death on April 2, 1992. Mitchell Ferguson is the pastor of First Baptist Church, Raleigh, and Brother Billy's pastor. Here is a tribute to our Mississippi Directors of Missions.

The Director of Missions is a great man of God, dedicated to his God, to his wife, to his family, and to his fellow man. His life is an eloquent testimony to what God can do through a life that is committed to Him. He is always with his Lord, sets the example for all of us to follow. I know him as my pastor, my Director of Missions, and as my friend. I work with him on many occasions through the association, different types of meetings and services. And I always find him to be one who is true, one who is willing, one who always wants to work, cooperate, and help in any way. Pastors can testify that the Director of Missions is a pastor's friend. You can go into his office, and he always has time for you, he always has time to listen, no matter what you have to share with him, whether it is good or bad, whether problems or victories, he is there. I thank God for such a man.

We pray: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, thank you for a good man. Thank you for the privilege to know him. His life is a life given to your service, in the serving of others. Amen.

The Director of Missions is a preacher. In many ways he is a preacher's preacher. And so many times we share and talk and he ministers to us. Some modernists today look at preachers and say, "I don't know why in the world anybody would want to be a preacher!" And I know that the Director of Missions has great joy in his calling in the ministry. He knows that is what God wants him to do. He knows he has given his life to it, and he is faithful in that task always. I really believe to some of the modernists who would wonder why a man with great talent, great ability to meet with people and relate to people, he could do anything he chooses to do,

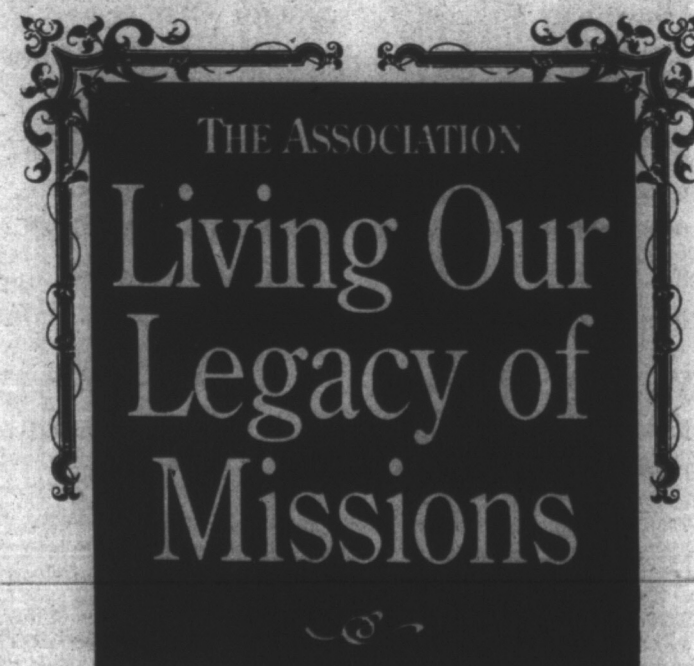
why would he be a preacher? I think he might respond with Paul, who said, "I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, who hath enabled me. For he counted me faithful, putting me in the ministry." I believe the Director Missions has that kind of positive attitude about his calling and his relationship to God and his service before God, because he relays it to us, he gives it to us in his life everyday. There is always a sense of joy, a sense of challenge, and in so many ways he is heroic in all that he does in his life before God, because he is faithful in that which he does. We sometimes forget, and maybe it takes men like Truett to remind us that the very fiber of our nation is often held together by the Christian pulpit. So that calling and that place of service for the Director of Missions' life is a glorious calling for him. It is a wonderful-calling that God gives him in his life. His life gives a testimony of a man that not only knows his calling, but he lives that life before God that God has called him to live.

I see advertisements that say knowledge is power, and that's true. But when I see men like the Director of Missions, and when I know him and when I sit and share with him and talk with him, I realize that even more than that, character is power. The Director of Missions has character of his life and a testimony of his life that has power and influence on the people of this community and of this world.

When he encounters people, they soon find they have a friend. They soon find they have encountered someone who can relate to them and care about them, and communicate that to them. The Director of Missions lives his life in that way. He lives his life as a life of service.

It is a life of service. But more than just serving in places, there are special things about the way he does it. He cares, he has time for people. He ministers in that way. Not only does he have time, but he has a way of knowing when pastors have needs. I am always amazed that the Director of Missions is so perceptive with pastors, and with friends, to know a need in life. He ministers, and he cares, and he is able to do that in a way that is unobtrusive, without invading privacy, ministry, in any way, he is just there. He is a very special person. He always has words that are encouraging. He always has the right thing to say, the thing to sort of pick-you-up. His counsel is incisive, it is words that seem to get the point across. And we know that counsel is from the Lord and that it is encouraging and helpful. Even sometimes when he confronts us—he cares.

I want to say that the Director of Missions is a friend. And that is the most special and precious thing to so many of us. That's the kind of character of his life, that's the testimony of his life, and the tremendous power in it. He is a man that loves his family. He labors faithfully, diligently, and always with tremendous energy. As the testimony of the Director of Missions lives in our hearts and minds, may it be a challenge that each of us will say in a more positive way, in a more loving way, in a more caring and ministering way, "I will live my life, for I've seen the example, and I've seen the great love he has shown me; and I will share it with others, in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."





## THE SANDWICH MAN CAME TO BAPTIST BUILDING

BY INDY WHITTEN  
PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATOR, MBCB

I looked up to the doorway of the Prayer Ministry office at Baptist Building and saw a man standing there with a stack of bright yellow advertisement sheets in his hand.

"I'm George," he said, "from Jackson's oldest and best sandwich shop. Could you tell me who is the hostess in this building?"

I wasn't exactly sure who carried that title, but I took him to the mailroom to talk with Fran Pickett. There he explained the offers of his shop that would be advantageous for special meetings at Baptist Building.

I came back to the office but didn't sit down. With a flash I realized that I had not asked him if he were a Christian. I hastened out to the reception desk to ask if he had left the building. There he was talking with Sara Hall. He shared with us a little about his background: Italian ancestry but adopted by Spanish-speaking people and given a Spanish name, "JORGE ESPARZA." He spoke of his plans to open a Mexican food restaurant. To "buy" another opportunity I told him that Charles and I were interested in this venture, and asked him to come back by the office so that I could give him our address.

I handed him our personal card and then asked, "Are you a Christian?" George turned quickly to leave as if he didn't want to answer. I caught him by the sleeve and said, "No, you can't leave until I tell you something which is very important to me. Your greatest need, George, is to find peace with God through letting Jesus Christ come into your life." He listened and then confessed that he had sometimes had the feeling that he needed just that.

As he turned to go, he said, "I kept wondering why you delayed so long in bringing up that subject."

HT

## MISSISSIPPI PRAYERGRAM

Pray for Bangladesh, in southern Asia. This country, one of the poorest in the world and predominantly Muslim, has only five couples to serve a population of 116 million. The government has allowed Southern Baptists a quota of nine missionary couples. Pray that others will hear the call to Bangladesh.

Pray for the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union). Churches in the republics of Uzbekistan (ooz-BEK-ee-stahn), Kyrgystan (Ker-GEEZ-stahn) Kazakhstan (koz-OCK-stahn) and Siberia have lost laity and key pastors to emigration. Pray for new pastors and laity to be called out to fill the gaps.

Pray for the Baptist Mission in Ecuador. During the summer months the likelihood of another cholera outbreak increases. Pray that the missionaries will be able to respond to this need should a crisis occur.

## Preschool Forum to be held at Sunday School Conference, Gulfshore I



Rachel Coe



Amy Morrow



Judy Hicks

Rachel Coe, editor of preschool curriculum materials in the Sunday School division will lead a preschool forum along with writer of Preschool A, Judy Hicks and writer of Preschool C, Amy Morrow. This forum will take place during the Sunday School Conference at Gulfshore I, July 30-August 1, 1992. All age group sessions will be offered. Plan to attend!

For more information concerning Sunday School Conferences at Gulfshore contact the Sunday School Department 601-968-3800

# BREAK THROUGH EQUIP TO WIN

Pray for the Christian Home Emphasis in our Southern Baptist Churches, sponsored by the Discipleship Training Department. (May 10-June 14)

Pray for Dr. Samuel Carmack, professor at Southwestern Seminary. He is leading a Bible study in northeast Tarrant County, Tex. The services were moved to a theater on Easter Sunday, and is continuing to grow. Pray for this group that will become the Bear Creek Valley Church.

Pray for Vincent Paul, pastor of the East Indian Mission in Canada. He works with Sikhs (adherents of a Hindu sect) and Hindus. Pray for a worship place for the Richmond, Canada, congregation. They presently meet in a school, which is not conducive to worship.

Continue to pray for Hiram and Shirley Powell, that Shirley will have a complete recovery from her health problem, and that they may receive a work permit for Zimbabwe, where they serve as on-

the-field coordinators for the Miss.-Zimbabwe Partnership.

Pray for Debbie Chisolm, age 37 who has been diagnosed as having Myelo Dysplastic Syndrome, a pre-leukemia condition not treatable by radiation or chemo. There is only one other recorded case of a person under 40 having this disease. Debbie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Chisolm, are from Enterprise, Miss.

Pray for a Baptist Women Prayer Retreat, to be held at Camp Lake Stephens, at Oxford; 5:30 p.m. May 1-1:00 p.m. May 2. Pray that such meetings will present the need for a moral rebirth in our country and in our state.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYERLINE  
**969-PRAY**



## Missions Emphasis at Central Hills

Missions is one of the focal emphases in the Brotherhood Department's programming for Royal Ambassador and High School Baptist Young Men campers. Below is a list of missionaries who will lead the mission sessions during the 5 weeks of resident camp and 3 weekends of lad/dad camp in 1992.

Campers attend mission activity sessions in small groups. Each group attends a session once each day for four days of camp. This setting allows the missionaries to approach the campers in a personal manner. It allows the campers to question the missionary and hear a personal reply. The campers are able to learn the biblical teachings about Christian Missions. They learn of the personal faith of the missionary, the personal call of the missionary and how they (the campers) can fulfill Christ's commission in their own lives.

### GUEST MISSIONARY LIST 1992

June 19 - 20 Lad/Dad Weekend Camp

June 22 - 26 R.A./H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp

June 26 - 27 Lad/Dad Weekend Camp

**Rev. & Mrs. James Booth (Edith)**

MBCB, HMB, Deaf

P. O. Box 4227

Jackson, MS 39296-4227

June 29 - July 3

R.A./H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp

**Rev. & Mrs. James Gilbert (Dottie)**

Ecuador & Panama

223 Nicholson

Waveland, MS 39576

July 13 - 17 R.A./H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp

July 17 - 18 Lad/Dad Weekend Camp

**Rev. & Mrs. Bob Storie (Maudie)**

HMB/Jackson Association/Seaman's Min.

P. O. Box 1726

Pascagoula, MS 39567

July 10 - 24 R.A./H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp

**Rev. & Mrs. Ralph Calcote (Gena)**

FMB, Japan

Rt. 1, Box 114

Wesson, MS 39191

July 27 - 31 R.A./H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp

**Rev. & Mrs. Ralph Davis (Joyce)**

FMB, Ghana

402 S. 23rd Avenue

Hattiesburg, MS 39401

The last issue of **HouseTops** noted that the camp fee for the three Lad-Dad weekend camp sessions at Central Hills Baptist Retreat would be \$22.00. That is incorrect. The correct fee is \$22.50. The dates are June 19 - 20, June 26 - 27, and July 17 - 18.

# Total Church Life Seminar

**First Baptist Church  
Pearl, Mississippi**

**May 16, 1992**

**Sponsored by the  
Rankin Association**

A **Total Church Life Seminar** will be conducted at First Baptist Church, Pearl, on Saturday, May 16 from 8:30 a.m. till 4 p.m. **Total Church Life** is the strategy for the churches to reach their community for Christ that is being proposed by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is a balanced program to "Exalt the Savior, Equip the Saints, and Evangelize the Lost." It presents practical ways to penetrate a definite geographical area, saturate it with the gospel and enlist the membership in total participation to reach people for Christ.

Ron Barker of the Evangelism section of the Home Mission Board will be leading the seminar.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the host church. Reservations are necessary and must be made by calling Rankin Association office - 939-2182.

Materials will be available for participants to purchase.



Ronald Barker



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

**CLASS A MEN'S & WOMEN'S TOURNAMENTS**  
(Churches with Sunday School enrollment of less than 500)

**JULY 31 - AUGUST 1, 1992**

**CLASS AA MEN'S & WOMEN'S TOURNAMENTS**  
(Churches with Sunday School enrollment of 500 and above)

**AUGUST 14 - 15, 1992**

Entry forms and regulations will be mailed to churches JUNE 5  
Tournaments will be played on the Jackson City Fields

Tournament Director: Tom Prather, P. O. Box 509, Clinton, MS 39060

*A Church Recreation Ministry  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*



# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## Rene Hilton retires



Rene Hilton, for 17 years secretary in the state Discipleship Training Department, is retiring April 30. Her fellow employees honored her with a reception at the Baptist Building on April 29.

Mose Dangerfield, director, Discipleship Training, said of her, "Rene has been a faithful and dedicated secretary for us. She loves people and endeavors to meet their needs whatever the cost to her personally. A joy to work with, she has brought a spark of enthusiasm about life that has touched us all. She will certainly be missed in our department and will remain a lifetime friend to us."

Before she came to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in 1975, Rene had been education secretary at Calvary Church, Jackson. Prior to that, she had worked in a regional library in the Hattiesburg area, part of that time as associate director of Pine Forest Library System. "The Lord had established me in that job before my husband died," she said. Her service there began in 1958, and Jack Hilton was killed in a car wreck in 1962.

She met Jack in high school at Drew in her native Sunflower County. She met the Lord during a revival in a country church when she was 12; Howard Spell baptized her at First Church, Drew, when he was pastor there.

At Alta Woods Church, Jackson, she is a worker in the Singles Department. While at Calvary, she was director of the Singles Department for 10 years.

Her five children all live in Mississippi: Patricia Walley, Richton; Thomas Hilton, Laurel; Laurie Rose, Laurel; Jackie Wallace, Pearl; and Edwin Hilton, Byram.

May plans for her include a trip to Laurel to visit two teen granddaughters (she has nine grandchildren). "I want to do a Bible study for teens in their apartment complex," she said. Another project she has in mind for the future is to visit hospitals to help relieve out-of-town parents who are caring for their sick children. This need became a reality to her last year when her daughter Jackie's baby died at age 4 weeks. "We want to thank people again for their prayers for us during that time," she said.

Her oldest grandson, Scott Hilton, has surrendered his life to the gospel ministry as a Methodist preacher and is studying at William Carey College. "I think it's wonderful that God can use one of my grandchildren to preach," she said.

Rene has a talent for making people laugh, so when I needed a lift, I

was always glad to see her at coffee break time. One year, when she was my "secret pal," I should have guessed her identity, for she did so many beautiful things for me. For example, notes that made me laugh and made me more grateful for my daily blessings, and a needlework sampler that must have taken many hours to make. Whatever she does, she does with a spirit of joyous optimism; so I should not have been surprised that her favorite Scripture is Psalm 121, which begins "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills . . . My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth . . ."

In the statement below are her own words concerning her plans and ideas for her future:

I am approaching another station in my life which will set another direction for me. Life is somewhat like traveling by train through the country. Events in our lives come and go like the passing scenes we watch through the train windows.

Last year the consultants in Discipleship Training used the theme, "Train to Disciple All," meaning that the best way to become good disciples is to set worthwhile goals and get the right ticket, or training, to reach those goals. It helps to know where you're going or you will wind up nowhere. Uppermost in our minds is the final destination. When we arrive at the station, there our dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fall in place.

When we reach the station . . . When I finish school. When I get married. When we buy our first home. When we get the last child through college. On and on the stations come and go. I have passed through many stations in my lifetime. Where were the marching bands and the waving flags? Soon we realize the station is still in the distance. The true joy of life is the ride along the way. Relish the moment. Enjoy the flowers and friends along the way. What contributions have I made as I traveled the roads? Someone has said that the best things in life are free. It is the regrets of yesterday and fears of tomorrow that rob us of the happiness of today. Remember Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord hath made, I shall rejoice and be glad in it."

I have set one other important goal . . . to arrive at the station where my Lord waits. I have the right ticket and one day I'll board the train for glory. There our dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fall in place.

In the meantime, my train is pulling into the station of retirement from the Baptist Building as of April 30, 1992. I will miss seeing my Building friends on a daily basis, but I hope our tracks will cross often as we travel the roads of Jackson and Mississippi. I plan to take time to climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, watch more sunsets, and forget mailouts and computers. I hope you will make it a point to relax and enjoy these things, too. After all, the station will come soon enough.

Rejoice in the Lord,  
Rene Hilton

Thursday, April 30, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Calvary, Tupelo, claims both Miss Ole Miss and Miss MSU

By Anne W. McWilliams



Shannon Nunnelee

Calvary, Tupelo, has the distinction of being home church of both the current Miss Mississippi State University — Shannon Nunnelee — and Miss Ole Miss — Marci Mathews. Both are seniors who are to graduate next month. (Also Calvary claims the current student body president at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C. — David Upchurch. Two years ago, Miss Mississippi 1990 — Cherry Busby — was a member of Calvary Church.)

Shannon Nunnelee, political science major at MSU, plans to work a year with International Service Corps of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, teaching English. She attended an ISC conference in Richmond in March and is to leave for a former Soviet Republic nation at the end of August.

She said, "I began to explore short term missions after returning from a Study Abroad program in Mexico last summer."

After the year of mission work, she plans to enter law school, she said, and then later to do public service/government related work. "It has been my prayer that I would be willing to be used for Christ wherever I am placed."

A Christian since age 9, Shannon was baptized at Calvary Church. "Besides my family," she said, "people in the church have had the strongest impact on my growth as a Christian. Through Sunday School, Discipleship groups, youth groups, and church camps, God used many people in Calvary Church to develop my faith." In Starkville, she attends First Church.

Though her older brother and two sisters had studied at State, she planned to go to Ole Miss until she received the John Stennis Scholarship at State. Then she visited the State campus and "loved it." Too, she was given a Harry Truman Scholarship and was named a President's Scholar.

She has been active in BSU and in Student Association. In the latter, she has been senator, United Way campus chairman, and currently is executive

assistant to the SA president.

"My family is extremely important to me," Shannon pointed out. "My parents are committed Christians, with servant hearts." Her father, Pat Nunnelee, is president elect of the American Funeral Assurance Company in Amory. Her mother, Sandra, is "fulltime wife and mother" (with a nursing degree). The three older Nunnelee "children," Alan, 33, Lisa, 31, and Dodie, 27, are married. Shannon, next is 21. Then Ammi is 11 and Joshua is 9. The most recent addition to the family is Matthew, 3-year-old foster brother, who has severe heart problems. "We originally got him when he was three months old because he needed fulltime nursing care," Shannon said.

Marci Mathews, Miss Ole Miss 1991-92, and vice president of the Associated Student Body, is a 1992 University of Mississippi Hall of Fame selection; a 1991 Taylor Medalist in the School of Business Administration; and a member of Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities.

She said, "I chose this school Marci Mathews

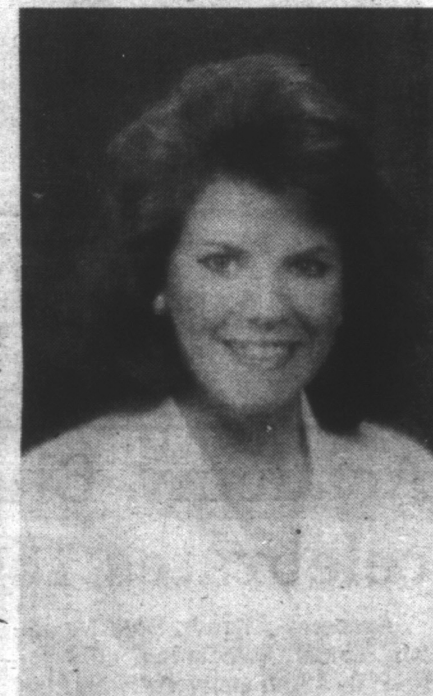
because of its proximity to my hometown, but also because I truly loved the beauty of the campus and the incredible people here."

Marci, whose major is in general business with emphasis in marketing, was the recipient of the Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship, the Litton Industries Scholarship, the Forrest Mobley Scholarship, and the Phi Eta Sigma Scholarship. During the summer of 1990, she worked in the office of U.S. Senator Trent Lott in Washington, D.C.

Born in Tupelo, she attended Calvary Church. Her parents, Dan and Kay Mathews, both work with the furniture industry in Tupelo. Her younger brother will enter Ole Miss this fall.

"I enjoy tennis," Marci said, "and I love to both water and snow ski. Also I enjoy being outside, either running or taking walks or reading a good book."

For its youth, Calvary is doing something right!



Marci Mathews

## Noriega 'shocked' by guilty verdict

MIAMI (ABP) — Manuel Noriega was "shocked and bewildered" when a Miami jury found him guilty of drug trafficking, according to a Baptist layman who has visited him during his imprisonment and trial.

But Tony Ponceti, who has been Noriega's spiritual tutor since 1990, said the deposed Panamanian dictator's newfound faith in Christ remains strong.

"If he hadn't been as strong as he is spiritually, he would have started (verbally) attacking (his accusers)," Ponceti said. "The proof of his strength is he has been able to hold back."

Noriega, 58, did not testify in his own defense during the trial, which lasted several months.

Ponceti has visited Noriega regularly since the Panamanian leader announced he had accepted Christ as his savior in May 1990. Ponceti visited both Noriega and his family soon after the verdict was handed down April 9.

"I found him shocked and bewildered," said Ponceti. "He did not feel that they were going to find him

guilty."

Noriega's lead attorney, Frank Rubino of Miami, said his client will appeal the conviction. In what prosecutors called "the trial of the century," Noriega was found guilty on eight of 10 drug-related counts and faces up to 120 years when his sentence is imposed July 10. Noriega also is expected to stand trial on other charges.

Ponceti, who led Noriega through Christian discipleship materials for several months after Noriega's conversion announcement, said he met with Noriega "irregularly" during the

trial because of security restrictions.

He said he plans to continue visiting Noriega at the Metropolitan Correctional Center south of Miami, where the prisoner is expected to stay until transferred to a permanent federal prison. He also will apparently have to wait for that transfer to be baptized as he has requested.

Noriega's wife and three daughters, who also reportedly made professions of faith during their exile in the Dominican Republic, were granted visas to enter the United States and attend the trial. They have been staying with friends in Miami.

## 825 pounds of cans = \$275 for BSU missions

Frances Wong of Boyle, member of First Church, Cleveland, has been picking up cans to make money for missions. She reports, "Every day I take my walks twice a day, and as I go, I pick up empty cans. In six months, I picked up 825 pounds of cans and sold them for \$275 to give to Baptist Student Union to put into their mission offering (for summer student missions)."



# Baptist churches respond to disaster in Pike County

By Ben Stewart

On April 20, a tornado, or several tornadoes, struck Pike County leaving a path of destruction about 200 yards wide starting just off Highway 48, about a mile east of Magnolia, and proceeding in a northeast direction for about 23 miles toward the Lincoln-Lawrence County lines. Seventeen homes were destroyed; three businesses and two trailers were also destroyed.

After a damage assessment survey by the Pike County Baptist Association Disaster Relief Ministry, the director Ben Stewart activated the clean-up and recovery unit. This unit, which represents all the Baptist churches in the county, responded. A call was also placed to the State Brotherhood Department in Jackson, requesting the aid of additional clean-up and recovery units.

The Pike Disaster Unit was divided into two groups. One under the direction of David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Summit, started in the north county. The other group, under direction of Ben Stewart, started in the south. The two groups worked toward each other to the hardest hit area, the Homestead Subdivi-

sion, east of McComb.

Request for help was answered by Goss Church from Marion County, Pastor William Wright and his team; and also by Lawrence County Disaster Team. The help of these additional Baptist Disaster Relief units and the personnel of the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department, made it possible to get all trees off roofs and clear the utility right-of-ways by late afternoon on April 20.

Meals for disaster relief personnel and families involved in the disaster were prepared by the Navilla Church and its members: 371 meals were served on April 20. Several local businesses also donated food items.

The help of the Pike County Sheriff's Department in keeping sightseers out of the affected area made the clean-up work easier.

Stewart is director, Disaster Relief, Pike Association.



Pike County Baptist Association's Disaster Relief trailer.

The 1992-93 Church Planning Handbook is at the printer, according to Gene Dobbs, the Convention Board's administrative assistant for ministry. A copy of this handbook will be in the June mailing of the Light Packet, which goes to church staff. Along with this mailing will be an order form for obtaining extra copies of the handbook. These cannot be ordered until June.

## Academy, Blue Mountain celebrates 150th year

Academy Church, Blue Mountain, Tippah Association, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on May 17. Services will begin at 9:30 a.m., closing with an afternoon singing.

E. Harold Fisher, president of Blue Mountain College, will be

the guest speaker.

Activities will include a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall, testimonies of men who surrendered to preach at Academy, and a reading of the history of the church.

Lyndle Davis is pastor.



Officers of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association for the coming year were installed recently at Camp Garaywa. They are, from left to right: Elizabeth Godfrey, Fairview, Columbus, secretary-treasurer; Connie Evans, Mississippi College, second vice president; Betty Chesteen, Fairview, Greenville, first vice president; and Linda Kitrell, Gulf Coast Association, president.

## Oak Forest celebrates 35th

A 35th anniversary celebration is planned for Oak Forest Church in Jackson, May 3. The church, which started in a tent 35 years ago, now serves 1,263 Sunday School members.



Hudson

Tom Hudson will preach during the 10:30 a.m. service. He served as pastor of the church for 22 years before becoming an editor for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. He will also participate in an informal celebration service at 1 p.m.

May 3 has been designated as high attendance day for Sunday School. A complimentary lunch will be served.

### CLASSIFIED

RATE 50¢ per word. \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH** — Northwest Florida area. Send resume to: Lakeview Baptist Church, 1100 Michigan Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32505.

**INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION PACKAGES:** Includes hotel accommodations (choice of hotels), shuttle service, and more. Also: discount airfares, Indianapolis transportation for all hotels. Christian Travelers 1-800-972-8952.

## ACADIAN BAPTIST CENTER

1992 Summer Camp Dates

### YOUTH CAMP DATES

Youth I — June 15-19  
(Speaker — Mike Fritcher)

Youth II — June 29-July 3  
(Speaker — John Yates)

Youth III — July 27-31  
(Speaker — Todd Foster)

### PRE-TEEN CAMP DATES

Pre-teen I — June 8-12  
(Speakers — Jeff & Debbie McElroy)

Pre-teen II — June 22-26  
(Speaker & Music — Ed Lacy)

Pre-teen III — Aug. 3-7  
(Speaker — Joe Kite)

GA/Acteen & RA Camp — July 13-17\*  
Christian Basketball Camp — Aug. 3-7\*

**CAMP FEE — (4 Nights, 12 Meals) = \$60.00**

(\*Note: GA/Acteen & RA Camp fee will be \$78.00 to include t-shirt & Canteen card. Basketball camp fee will be \$75.00 to include t-shirt & program fee.)

For pre-registration information, call 318-457-9047 or write ABC, Rt. 3, Box 356, Eunice, Louisiana 70535.



Sixth Annual  
Mississippi Baptists  
In Broadcasting  
Workshop

May 15 - 16, 1992  
Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson

### Friday, May 15

6-7 p.m.

Browse in vendor display area.  
Vendors in video and sound equipment will be on hand.

7-9 p.m.

### Awards Banquet

MBIB Awards for radio and video which demonstrate excellence in message and production in "Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus."



Johnson

### Speaker: Jack Johnson

President, Radio & Television Commission, SBC. Dr. Johnson directs the ministry of Southern Baptists in electronic media throughout the United States.

8:45 p.m.

### ACTS Affiliates Meeting

### Saturday, May 16

8:00 a.m.

### Continental Breakfast

8 - 9 a.m.

Browse in vendor display area.

9 - 11:30 a.m.

### Workshops

### "Producing A Worship Service II"

Helping camera people, directors, producers, and those who lead the worship service to look at every aspect of producing the worship service from scripting, working as a team, broadcast sound and other details.



Harris

Led by Ron Harris -- Program director of KCBI Radio and former Minister of Media for Travis Avenue BC, Ft. Worth, Texas

"Creative TV Production -- Beyond The Sanctuary II" Shooting the one-camera production including preproduction planning, location shooting, lighting, audio, postproduction, editing in the camera.



Hargis

Led by Bernie Hargis -- Television producer for the Radio and TV Commission, SBC and the ACTS Network, Ft. Worth, Texas

11:30 a.m.

### Lunch

Browse with vendors again

1:00 p.m.

### Workshops continue

3:30 p.m.

### Adjourn

Cost is \$25 per person which includes all conference materials and meals. For churches bringing five or more persons, cost is \$20 per person. For further information contact Farrell Blankenship, Broadcast Services at 968-3800.

Registration deadline - May 6, 1992



# William Carey College receives \$264,000 gift

A \$264,000 gift by Dumas L. and Lorena Roseberry Smith will help William Carey College achieve national recognition for excellence in teaching. The gift will be committed to a new Teaching Excellence Program, according to President Jim Edwards.

"The program is planned to support teaching excellence professorships for faculty who have exceptional long-term performance in higher education, and annual grants, awards, and stipends for faculty who demonstrate teaching

excellence at William Carey College," added Edwards.

The Smiths are long-time Hattiesburg residents. He has served on the William Carey College Board of Trustees. The Dumas L. Smith Auditorium in the college's fine arts center is named in his honor.

Mrs. Smith is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Roseberry, founders of the Roseberry Piano House. The Smiths are members of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.

## PRICE

From page 3

heritage and that's our root. We're committed to the Book and to the Lord of the Book, uninhibitedly."

In conclusion he said, "I may well not be elected, but if the Lord is so gracious as to use this experience to open our convention so that in the future a number of individuals can and will be nominated and the convention itself (chooses) the president, it will be a good thing."

Following the chapel address, Price said privately, "It is my prayer our conservative movement is so strong we no longer need a

coalition candidate. If we can, and we can, elect a president without using the method of the last few years, we will prove we are a movement and not a party. Thus we will demonstrate a unique strength and further validate the breadth of our credible cause.

"If we do not do this at some point, we will have fallen into an opposite but equal error as the denomination loyalists/moderates before us who chose our presidents and whose actions were resented."

Price was president of the SBC Pastors' Conference in 1987 and president of the Georgia Baptist Convention in 1982-83.

## FISHER

From page 3

ministration from University of Mississippi, and a doctorate in curriculum and supervision from Teacher's College of Columbia University, New York City.

Before he became president of Blue Mountain College in 1965, he had been director of elementary education for the state Department of Education and before that had taught in Yazoo City schools.

According to a Clarion-Ledger article by Reagan Walker, "his colleagues say he won't skip a beat." John Hartman, executive

director of the Mississippi School Boards Association, said, "He is tireless. He thinks nothing of hopping in his car, driving to Atlanta for a 10-or-12-hour meeting, and then driving back."

Teresa Pittman, 21, a Batesville junior at Blue Mountain College, said even though Fisher is juggling several responsibilities "he always has time for you."

On NSBA, Fisher replaces Arlene Penfield, a member of the Rouses Point, N.Y. School Board.

The most immediate challenge facing school boards in Mississippi and across the country in the coming year is budget cutbacks, Fisher said.

## MOSCOW

From page 3

to six months requiring up to 80 volunteers.

But Project Brotherhood has a wider aim than in just one city. The project needs both volunteers and contributions for purchase and distribution of food and medicine in several cities of the Commonwealth.

Southern Baptists who wish to volunteer should contact the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department at 968-3800 in Jackson.

Contributions for food and medicine can be sent to Project Brotherhood, c/o Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, or Project Brotherhood, c/o BWA, 6733 Curran St. McLean, VA 22101.

Churches may also send 36-lb. boxes of food which need to be prepared according to instructions available from the Mississippi Brotherhood Department. These boxes need an accompanying \$50 to cover cost of delivery.

A daily updated info line concerning Project Brotherhood is (901) 278-7839.

## New attempts emerge to legalize video poker

By Paul Jones

The Mississippi Legislature is at it again. In one last attempt to legalize video poker machines, HCR 191 would suspend the normal rules of both the house and senate to allow the reintroduction of HB 625 which was earlier defeated. Your legislators (senator or representative) need to hear from you immediately. They can be contacted by calling 359-3770, or by writing Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215.

## Land: "Observe 'Meet at City Hall'"

WASHINGTON (BP) — Americans are expected to gather at city halls in about 2,500 cities May 7, the National Day of Prayer, to pray for a moral rebirth in the country.

Officials of the event, "Meet at City Hall," are encouraging Christians to go to their local city halls and pray from 12:20 to 12:40 p.m. on that day.

"The Bible tells us in Romans that we are to support the government for conscience sake and we're commanded in I Timothy 2:1-2 to pray for kings and all that are in authority," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Land is one of 11 honorary co-chairmen of Meet at City Hall.

## Yazoo County observes Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer, May 7, will be observed at the Yazoo County Courthouse, Yazoo City, at 12:20 p.m. People of all faiths and denominations are encouraged to participate in a time of prayer for moral rebirth in America.



## Mississippians attend volunteer leadership meet

Twenty Mission Service Corps area coordinators and associates attended the first National Volunteer Leadership Conference at Shocco Springs, Ala., April 3-6. The conference was led by Don Hammonds, director of the Volunteer Division, Home Mission Board, SBC, and others from the long-term and short-term volunteer divisions. A total of 366 attended the meeting. Those from Mississippi were Murry and Anne Alexander, Keith and Maureen Allen, Max and Mary Ball, Harlan and Alene Byrd, Nat and Dorothy Mayhall, Sidney and Margaret Pitts, Fred and Mae Price, David and Pat Selvy, and Estus and Gertrude Mason. Mason is MSC coordinator for the state.

*Celebrate Life!*

featuring  
**Cynthia Clawson**  
**Ragan Courtney**

**Sunday, May 3, 1992**

**3:00 p.m.**

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**May 15-16**

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Due to a new policy, we must have your pre-registration fee by **Wednesday, May 13**. The balance is due on Friday at registration. Make checks (no cash) payable to:

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# Just for the Record



Thirty-four children, youths, and 14 workers from six churches in Tishomingo Association gathered for a late night party in the fellowship hall at Tishomingo Church on March 27. Pam Jenkins, lower right, of Calvary Church is Bible drill director for the association. Churches represented were: Iuka, Tishomingo, New Prospect, Harmony Hill, Calvary, and Central at Golden. Roger S. Dossett is director of missions.

Alta Woods Church, Jackson, will hold "EXPO 1992," May 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Events include arts and crafts, food, auction, pony rides, entertainment, space walk, and dunking booth. All proceeds go to fund youth summer camp. Tickets will be available at the entrance.

First, Houston, will host a marriage and enrichment seminar, May 11-12, 7-9:30 p.m. "Marriage... God's Way" will be conducted by Bob and Nancy McQuestion. The fee for the seminar is \$5 per person. For more information, write First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 389, Houston, MS 38851 or call 456-5311. Registration deadline is May 4.

Parkhill Church, Jackson, will observe Senior Adult Day, May 3. Leon Emery of Jackson will bring the 11 a.m. message, followed by dinner in the fellowship hall. The "Washboard Band" of Philadelphia will present a program after dinner. Jimmy Sellers is pastor.

Chugach Association, Anchorage, Alaska, is seeking resumes of those interested in serving as director of missions in its association. Send resumes to Bob Buster, P. O. Box 773249, Eagle River, AK, 99577.

First Church, Durant, will hold an open house and dedication for its new building May 3, 3:30-6 p.m. Jerry Bishop is pastor.

Trinity Church, Pearl, will host the "Florida Boys" of Pensacola in a singing service, May 3, 7 p.m. Kenny Goff is pastor.

## Three Baptist associations pass resolutions concerning Clarke

The Leake County Baptist Association passed a resolution in its spring meeting requesting that Mississippi College delay the closing of Clarke College until after the end of the 1992 fall semester. This would enable students presently enrolled to complete work at Clarke, according to the

association.

The Panola and Clarke County Associations have passed similar resolutions, deploring the closing of Clarke College and requesting the properties be turned over to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Both associations met in regular sessions, April 12.

## Names in the news

Dow Yoder of Oak Grove, La., a junior at Mississippi College, has been selected as a Truman Scholar by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Yoder is the third Mississippi College student to be named a Truman Scholar since its establishment in 1975. Only 82 students are selected from a pool of over 1,300 who are nominated.



Yoder

Bennie R. Crockett Jr., associate professor of religion and philosophy at William Carey College, concluded his second year as president of the Mississippi Philosophy

Association.

William Carey College, 12th in the NAIA poll, recently signed Tyler Leverett from New Braunfels, Texas, to its tennis team. He is ranked 13th in Texas.

## Evergreen marks centennial year

Evergreen Church, Louisville, will celebrate its centennial May 8-10. Festivities include a box supper May 8, 7 p.m.; gospel singing, May 9, 7 p.m.; special services May 10, beginning at 8 a.m.; skit on church history; brush arbor meeting; and dinner on the grounds. Calvin Inman is guest speaker.

For more information, call (601) 773-2794. Charles Davis is pastor.

## Revival dates

Alta Woods, Jackson: May 3-8; Roy Honeycutt, president, Southwestern Seminary, evangelist; Lanny Allen, First, Amarillo, Texas, music; services, Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Calvary, Vicksburg: May 3-8; Fred E. Robertson, Vicksburg, evangelist; Lawrence L. White, BSU director, Clarke College, music; 7 nightly; Johnny Collins, pastor.

Short Creek (Yazoo): May 3-6; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Howard Smith, morning worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Sammy Bradshaw, afternoon mes-

sage and Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; J. B. and Glendora Sherman, music; Norris Ables, pastor.

Bond, Wiggins: May 3-7; Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula, evangelist; Jimmy Little, First, Gulfport, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Andy Foutz, pastor.

Second, Greenville: May 3-7; Ed Griffin, First, Ridgeland; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Sunday, 10:50 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Robert A. Dottley, pastor.

Grandview, Pearl: May 3-6; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Virgil Holloway, Maranatha Church, Seneca, S.C., evangelist; Pat Prestwood,

music; Wade Chappell, pastor.

Oral, Sumrall: May 3-6; Sun., 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Cliff Estes, evangelist; Alan Carlson, morning music; Daniel and Julie Lee, evening music; B. J. Barrett, pastor.

## Homecomings

Temple Church, Jackson: May 3; 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; "Southern Cross," music; Jeff Harrison, pastor.

First, Orange Grove: May 3; 10 a.m.; Robert Louk, Gautier, speaker; dinner in fellowship hall; "The Barrows," singers; Robert E. Spicer, pastor.

Midway, Vardaman: May 3; memorial service, 10 a.m.; L. C. Vance, Southaven, speaker; covered dish on grounds; June Kirby and Family, Woodland, singers; Ralph Cain, pastor.

Antioch (Clarke): May 2, memorial service, 10 a.m.; May 3, 10 a.m.; all day singing; dinner on grounds;

Eugene Moffett, pastor.

Sherman (Lee): May 3; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1-3; Mike Smith, pastor.

Airport Church, Grenada: May 3; 11 a.m.; M. C. Barton, speaker; Kerry Nelson, music; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing; Larry Livingston, pastor.

Carmel, Monticello: May 3; Charles Guy, speaker; Ken Hedgepeth, music; noon fellowship; Robert Jones, interim pastor.

Seminary (Perry): May 3; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing; Justin Pitts, pastor.

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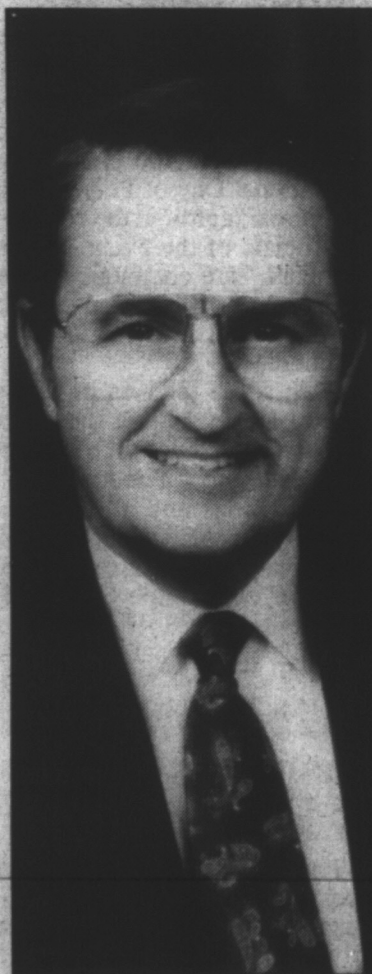
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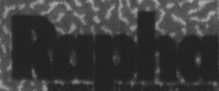
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## LIFE AND WORK

### Hope in troubled times



By Lola M. Antry  
Revelation 1:9-20

An early group of Christians had been banished to a near-by island because of their faith in Christ. There was no food, no water. They were naked. The night was cold; cold enough that they might die of exposure. They were given a choice: deny Christ and be allowed to return home, or die. Waiting were scoffers and unbelievers and persecutors. Confident of the return of the banished ones they reveled as the sun lowered and highlighted the victims. In the midst of their noisy celebration one person, then another, quieted until all were silent, for coming across the water they heard singing. The song was about Jesus.

Soon tired of listening they took up their merriment, pausing occasionally to learn if the singing from the island was continuing. Throughout the night it did, but in decreasing volume. At last only one voice remained. About dawn it, too, became silent. All had gone to be with the Jesus whom they adored. Why did they sacrifice themselves? What was their hope in doing so? This lesson explains, and then urges us to pass on the things we've learned.

**The call to John during troubled times (vv. 9-10).** John was in trouble, but not forsaken. Our Lord does not forsake us. His presence sustains us when we allow it. That's one of our problems. We often call on our own efforts instead of following the lead and accepting the help of our great and wonderful and loving God. In the midst of his troubles John was very near to the Lord and he was relying upon him for all things. He heard a voice — the voice of Jesus. This voice commanded John to write what he saw and send it to the seven churches of Asia.

**A description of the Lord Christ (vv. 12-16).** When John heard the voice he turned. A most unusual sight appeared. There were seven candlesticks and in the midst of them one like unto Jesus. With his golden girdle girded about him he was ready to go to work, still concerned about mankind, ready to give hope when hope seemed gone. John writes that his hair was snow-white like wool and that his eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet looked like fine brass and his voice was as the sound of many waters. He was holding seven stars in his right hand. In his mouth was a sharp two-edged sword and his face was as bright as the shining sun.

**Christ's message of hope (vv. 17-18).** John fell at his feet as if dead. And then the Lord touched him. Imagine actually feeling, literally, Jesus' touch. We can only feel his touch in the Spirit but that literally, truly, and wonderfully can change our lives and give hope even in the most dire circumstance. Jesus told John not to be afraid. In our everyday language he was saying, "I'm in charge. You can depend on me. I AM the One Who is from the beginning and always will be. Everything is under my control." Jesus overcame temptations and troubles and trials and tests while on this earth and was triumphant as he arose from the grave and ascended to his rightful position in heaven. We also have many trials. However, we are not often called upon to face death for him. How we respond to our distresses often reveals how much we love and are committed to him. He is totally committed to us. How about our relationship with him? Hope springs from commitment.

**A commission to communicate the message (v. 19).** Jesus told John to write what he had seen of the things present and those to come. John obeyed. Jesus has commissioned us to speak and give hope to both believers in him and to unbelievers. Hope to those who are his brothers and sisters no matter what their distress because he knows and has experienced all things, and will abide with them. Hope to unbelievers because of his promise of forgiven sin and eternal life if they will trust him.

Why did that group of believers die for him on that island mentioned earlier? Because they loved and believed in him so much they trusted him to be faithful to them even as they were faithful to him. He promised (Heb. 13:5b) he will never leave us or forsake us. This was their hope for both this life and the life to come. It can be ours, too. Let's spread our hope all around us.

Antry, a member of Pine Grove, lives in Hickory Flat.

## BIBLE BOOK

### Confidence in God's power



By Charles Nestor  
2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 6-14; 5:6-10

As you follow the life of Paul, especially in relation to the Corinthian church, you discover he is confronted with many different people and problems. However, he maintains his confidence in the Lord, and this enables him to endure the suffering and persecution.

**I. Confidence through knowing the truth (4:1-2, 6).** Paul knew his ministry was from God, and nothing could deter the will of God. If he was misinterpreted, it was because Satan had closed the ears of the hearers. Paul's preaching did not call attention to himself, but brought glory to God. The God of salvation had called him to a ministry through Jesus Christ. Paul gained confidence in knowing this truth. His life was without purpose before he met Christ, but now the Lord had given him a ministry of love, reconciliation, and service. This is the same general mission God has given each believer. However, God has a specific ministry for us. Paul had found his ministry, and he was standing in confidence with Christ.

**II. Confidence through knowing the results (4:7-12).** Paul knew he was just a vessel in the hands of God. Paul compares Christ's servants to "earthen vessels" made from clay. He could be thinking of a clay lamp; he talked of light in earlier verses. The treasure he refers to is the knowledge of the gospel. A clay lamp that is filled with oil will provide light. However, the lamp can be broken, chipped, or scarred. In like manner, our bodies can suffer, and our human weaknesses become apparent. God can use our weaknesses to accomplish his purpose. One writer suggests the following translation of the passage: "God gives his great truth to the world through weak human beings. That makes it obvious God is the source of power." There is no human being capable of transforming a human life without God's help. Paul uses four types of weakness as reminders that he is an "earthen vessel." In these he shows how he was often taken to the brink of failure and death, but God's grace rescued him. Paul wants us to understand that Christians may be knocked down, criticized, and abused, but we cannot be destroyed because God is our source of strength. Paul carried the scars on his body as proof of his suffering for Christ. Paul also suffered for the church. He had crossed many barriers to bring the gospel to those at Corinth. There were geographical barriers, shipwreck, travel problems, and racial barriers. He even faced imprisonment and punishment. None of these prevented Paul from bringing the gospel to Corinth.

The example is quite clear for us. We should not allow any barrier or obstacle to prevent us from taking the gospel to all the world. As God opens doors, we should be prepared to walk through them. In our Cooperative Program of Missions, we have a marvelous tool for presenting the gospel to the world. May we pray for wisdom to use it for God's glory. We are to be faithful in telling the good news and leave the results to God.

**III. Confidence in knowing the reward (4:13-14; 5:6-10).** Paul's faith in Christ gives him assurance that God will raise him and the Corinthians; just as Christ was raised. That is a truth for every believer. In the resurrection we are going to receive new bodies for eternity. It is this certainty of life with Christ after death that gave Paul confidence to endure the trials of this life. The Holy Spirit guided him and assured him of a home in heaven. We walk by faith and not by sight. Paul advocates the Christian response to salvation is to love God and seek to honor him through our walk in life. Paul does not see death as a threat, but as an embracing friend who leads us to completion and victory. God does hold us responsible for using our lives for his glory. God has called us to be obedient disciples, and we will always be accountable to him for our lives.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

*The wisest man I have ever known once said to me, "Nine out of every ten people improve on acquaintance," and I have found his words true. — Frank Swinnerton*

## UNIFORM

### Called to be God's people



By Bobby Williamson  
1 Peter 2:1-25

Many times the circumstances of this world leave us feeling quite inadequate and insignificant. When we look to our lesson this week we find that we as Christians are to be different. We are adequate in Christ and significant because he has chosen us to show forth his praises.

**I. A challenge to grow spiritually (2:1-3).**

In these first verses Peter challenges each of us to put aside wrong attitudes and words and to seek to grow spiritually. Verse 2 tells us that we are to long for the "pure milk of the Word," that we may grow in respect to salvation. It is very difficult for a person to be continually in the Word, to spend time with God in prayer, and be critical. Are you a growing Christian? Do not answer that question hastily. Have you put aside all malice and guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander? This is our admonition from Peter, and should motivate each of us to work at removing wrong elements from our lives.

**II. The living stone and living stones (2:4-8).**

Jesus is the living stone, and as Christians we are to be like him. As such, we are to be the living stones forming a spiritual house. In verse 7 we see Jesus being rejected, and just as he is rejected, many times we too will be rejected.

We must not allow this to keep us from showing forth his praises. Peter also writes that Christ, the chief cornerstone, was precious to God and to believers; but he had become a stone of stumbling to those who had refused to believe his Word. This should remind us that everyone makes a decision about Christ. Some say yes, and tragically others say no. In verse 8 let me emphasize that Peter did not mean some people were predestined to be disobedient apart from any choice on their part. What was predestined was that the people who reject Christ stumble; they face judgement as a result of their choices. Each person chooses to obey or disobey, and the results of the choices follow. We are all held accountable for the choices we make.

**III. Called to be God's people (2:9-10).**

When we become Christians, we become God's representatives upon this earth. This should be our primary agenda, that others might see Christ in us. In Exodus 19:5-6 God told Moses that those who kept his covenant would be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. In our text today we find in the new covenant that Christians are God's new people.

**IV. A charge to live honestly (2:11-12).**

Peter tells us clearly that we should abstain from fleshly lust. If we as Christians do not live differently then what do we have to offer a lost and dying world? Verse 12 tells us to keep our behavior excellent, that those who witness our lives on a daily basis may come to know Christ.

**V. The imitation of Christ (2:21-25).**

The purpose of the Christian life is to follow in the steps of Christ. We should approach each decision of life with the question, "What would Christ do in this situation?" Let us live our lives with the understanding that we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people.

We do not get saved just so that we might go to heaven when we die. That is certainly a wonderful addendum, but the primary focus of our being saved is to represent God on this earth. Let us decide today steps that we might each take to represent God more effectively in our lives each day. Our aim should be to show forth his praises each moment we spend on the earth.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

*Some would-be authors who think that fame and fortune can be had by merely spending a few moments a day at their typewriters can take a lesson from an anecdote concerning Christopher Morley, who was accosted by a gushing admirer:*

*"Have you ever written anything Mr. Morley," she spouted, "that you think will live after you've gone?" "Madam," answered Morley gravely, "what I'm trying to do is to write something that will enable me to live while I'm here."*



# capsules

**MASSIVE BIBLE DISTRIBUTION IN CUBA: NEW YORK (ABS)** — February 25 was a special day for the Christian community in Cuba. During an official ceremony attended by a number of United Bible Societies (UBS) representatives, an assignment of 72,000 Bibles, and thousands of New Testaments and Scripture portions were presented symbolically to leaders of more than 50 Protestant and orthodox denominations, said Kees de Blois, publishing and translations coordinator for the UBS Americas Regional Center in Miami. The American Bible Society (ABS) and other members of the world-wide fellowship of the UBS made it possible for the Bibles to be printed and shipped to Cuba from Mexico, Chile, and Sweden. The total number of Bibles supplied in the last 13 months to the Bible Commission, the UBS counterpart in Cuba, which coordinates Bible work on behalf of virtually all denominations, represents over 80% of all Bibles that were officially supplied during the preceding 30 years, reported de Blois.

**425,000 ATTEND LUIS PALAU RALLY IN MEXICO CITY: MEXICO CITY, Mexico (EP)** — Some 425,000 Mexicans gathered March 21 for a march and a five-minute address by Luis Palau at the close of Palau's Festival de la Familia. More than 10,500 people indicated that they committed their lives to Christ during the March 11-21 crusade. In previous crusades, Palau and his associates were not permitted to use the media for promotion or evangelism, and meetings were limited to enclosed arenas or churches. This time, however, Palau spoke at nine evangelistic meetings to crowds of 7,500 to 20,000 in two soccer stadiums and a bullring. He also was interviewed on a Sunday morning radio program, whose host asked him to explain how a personal relationship with Jesus Christ helps strengthen the family, and he spoke the following week on a public broadcasting television program.

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS INVITED TO SEMINARY MISSIONS SERVICE: LOUISVILLE, Ky.** — Southern Seminary is inviting mission teams from Mississippi Baptist churches to join in a "labor of love" as part of a Campus Restoration Volunteer Project at the school. The seminary has identified more than 70 projects, ranging from painting classrooms to renovating apartments, which can be addressed by mission teams from Southern Baptist churches. Five mission teams have already volunteered their services for the summer. A combination of more than \$8 million in deferred maintenance needs and declining Cooperative Program funding has forced Southern Baptists' oldest seminary to look at "some creative options," said David R. Wilkinson, vice president for seminary relations and chair of the steering committee for the volunteer project. The seminary, he noted, provides up to three meals a day for the volunteers and in some cases can provide free campus housing. For further information, contact the seminary relations office at (800) 626-5525.

**THE BAPTIST STUDENT CENTER IN BANGKOK, Thailand,** recently came under the independent administration of the Thailand Baptist Churches Association (Convention) after 40 years of functioning under the Thailand Baptist Mission. All operational costs will now come from funds raised by the English teaching program. The Thailand Baptist Mission and the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, will continue assistance with missionary and International Service Corps personnel, around which the BSC's teaching staff is built. A record of over 2,000 student seats were registered during one term of 1991. The Bangkok Municipal Administration sent 80 civil service personnel for study programs. Approximately 75 persons made professions of faith at BSC during the year. In November, the New Vision Baptist Church (which meets in the BSC facilities) baptized 12 new believers in the swimming pool at the Thai apartment building next door to the center. "If you feel God's leadership to come and serve (as volunteers) for one or more terms we welcome you," says missionary Donald V. Phlegar, English program director.

**BAPTISTS STARTED 7,033 NEW CHURCHES IN 1990:** According to Baptist World Alliance figures, Baptists started 7,033 new churches in 1990. The largest number of new church starts (5,454) was in the United States. Although not all nations report new churches, other reported totals include 384 in Africa, 706 in Asia, 76 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 149 in South America.

**BROADMAN PRESS AUTHOR ON NATIONAL MEDIA TOUR: NASHVILLE (BP)** — After suffering through a career collapse and divorce 12 years ago, Anita Bryant wanted only to avoid the press. But in dealing with her pain in the last decade, Bryant said she learned a valuable truth. "When you get down to the depths of hell and you are ready to give up, you find that God has suffered as well and he is able to relate to you and minister to you," she said. "I had lost everything precious to me and yet I found the essence of the most precious treasure I had had all along, and that was my relationship with Jesus Christ." Today, with a new story to tell of God's redemptive healing in her life, Bryant is facing the press once again on a national media tour promoting her new book, *A New Day*. Published by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press, the book sold more than 15,000 copies before its release and already is in its second printing.

## Making the Switch:

Christians Help Turkmen in Free Market



## U. S. Christian businessmen see Turkmenistan opportunities

**AID TO FORMER SOVIET REPUBLIC** — Newly independent Turkmenistan — once a Soviet republic — has opened its doors to Christian business people willing to help the land's nearly 4 million people. Gary DeBauche and Ken Middleton, business teachers at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and representatives of a group called Global Consortium International, recently met with government officials and local businessmen there and proposed the establishment of a Center for Free Enterprise and Economics. The consortium is a nonprofit organization that aims to bring together Christian business people, educators, and students with an interest in free enterprise economics. "This is such a great opportunity to share... free enterprise, but also to share the love of God," DeBauche said. Interested persons can write to Global Consortium International, 1601 S. Springfield, Bolivar, MO., 65613, or contact the group by phone at (417) 326-1756 or fax at (417) 326-1887. (BP graphic by Wayne Hundley)

# Kentucky pastor cooks up recipe for church growth

By Mark Wingfield

**LUDLOW, Ky. (BP)** — The ministerial staff of First Church, Ludlow, Ky., takes the biblical admonition to "feed my sheep" literally and their flock is growing as a result.

Since beginning a staff-cooked and staff-served Wednesday evening dinner two months ago, the church has experienced significant growth — nearly tripling Wednesday night attendance as well as increasing Sunday attendance, baptisms, and ministry participation. Food is an essential ingredient to this success story, pastor Tommy Mitchell said, but an emphasis on families has added to the mix.

The church has adopted a family ministry theme that offers help to individual families and brings people together into a larger church family.

Church members recently went door-to-door in their northern Kentucky town to distribute 2,000 packets labeled "Here's Hope For Your Family: A Gift of Love from First, Ludlow."

The packets contain family helps and an invitation to attend an inquirer's class called "First Look." The four-week cycle is offered on Sunday mornings for anyone who wants to learn more about the church with "no obligation to join anything."

Even the Wednesday evening meal and prayer time are billed as a family time.

Mitchell got the idea for the staff-cooked meals from Larry Davis, pastor of First Church,

Cold Spring, Ky. Davis has been cooking for his church for three years with similar success.

Preparing the meals takes about six hours every week, a price Mitchell said is small compared to results it produces. "Do you have time to double your crowd and your fellowship?" he often asks fellow pastors who can't understand why he does it.

He is joined in the kitchen by Doug Neuspickle, minister of education and youth, and Gary Belcher, minister of music. Church members call the staff cooks the "Three Brothers."

They have four basic menus which they rotate: oven-fried chicken, roast beef, baked ham, and turkey and dressing. All meals are cooked country-style and served with trimmings such as mashed potatoes, cherry cobbler, broccoli Normandy, and hot rolls.

One of the intangible benefits of the meals is the modeling of servanthood for the congregation, Mitchell said. "People say, 'If the Three Brothers can do this, then we can find our place of service.'"

Longtime member Gene Hellebush agreed the weekly illustration of servanthood isn't lost on church members: "You could have the meals prepared by the women of the church and it wouldn't be the same."

Before the meals began, Wednesday evening attendance averaged 50 people, Mitchell said. The first night meals were offered, 86 people showed up and the crowd hasn't dropped below 100 since.

## N. C. association will vote May 5 on church's union OK

By Art Toalston

**RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)** — The 110-congregation Raleigh Association has scheduled a special vote May 5 on withdrawing fellowship from Pullen Memorial Church for approving a marriage-like ceremony for two homosexual men.

The association's executive committee in a proposed resolution states Pullen "has acted contrary to the accepted biblical teaching regarding homosexual behavior" while "the biblical model for confrontation with the Christian fellowship (Matt. 18:15-17) has been followed as nearly as possible and yet without the desired results."

In the May 5 meeting, the association's executive committee also will ask church messengers, or representatives, to approve a statement on human sexuality. The committee also has released a statement of its own on Baptist heritage involving autonomy of local congregations.

Charles L. McMillan Jr. is the Raleigh Association's director of missions since 1978.

Toalston writes for BP.

Average attendance now is 140 and the high was 200 one week.

All this is a welcome change for the suburban Cincinnati church, which had been in decline from its peak in the 1950s.

"We finally have the brakes applied to the skid," Mitchell said. "We have it turned around to a growth mode. It takes hard work to reach people."

Wingfield is news director for WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky.

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